Good news abounds here at UUCC! We’re getting very close to signing a contract to make our beautiful facilities available to the House of Saints and Sinners, a startup church that is being led by Chuck Anderson, a minister from New Jersey who has settled in Frankfort and has worked in various churches in the area. The “House” would be using our facilities on most Saturday evenings, with a service time beginning at 6 p.m. I encourage you to attend a service and experience it for yourself.

Nancy Irons and several others have expressed a desire to revive the Four Winds chapter of CUUPS here at UUCC. The “Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans” is a group whose mission includes educating UU congregations and the general public on what Paganism is; promoting dialogue between Pagans and other religions; and, fostering healing relationships with Mother Earth and all her children. The Board will be considering their request at its February meeting.

The sun is shining higher in the skies and even though the temperature is in the teens outside, hope is springing once again that we’ll soon be absorbing our vitamin D from the most natural of sources while tilling our gardens in the soft southwesterly breezes.

Such is the continuing cycle of the seasons here in the Midwest, where those who choose to live can sometimes have difficulty conveying to friends and relatives living in softer climates that the essence of happiness isn’t necessarily being able to bask in sunlight 350 days of the year. No, it’s not that easy. One must subject oneself to a test of bravery by cultivating a willingness to be one with the elements of winter in their most ruthless dispositions.

My friends, true enlightenment is achieved when one steps foot into an icy parking lot, sets her face brazenly into the subzero wind chill, and begins moving haltingly towards the sanctuary doors, making sure that the trunks of cars along the path are within arm’s reach. Salvation occurs when, after stepping into the sunlit Gathering Room, chilled bones begin to thaw and the happy buzz of familiar voices mingles with the smell of brewing coffee. I’ve seen it happen.

Best to all,
Bruce

March 9th: Care of the Earth: “What Can Our Energy Future Be?”

March 16th: Supporting Fair Trade Retail, with Diana Gills from Global Fusion, A Fair Trade store in Homewood.


March 30th: “The Real Story from Ukraine” with Laurene Lambertino-Urquizo

The following are some of the highlights from the Board of Trustees meeting held on February 25th:

- The Board agreed to hold the Annual UUCC Membership Meeting on May 18th. Please mark your calendars to attend this important meeting.

- A motion was passed to revise the fees for renting the UUCC facility. The fee schedule will be available soon from Diane in the church office.

- The Board agreed to a request from several members who wanted to form a new CUUPS (Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans) chapter based at UUCC. Nancy Irons has more information if you are interested.

- The Board passed a motion that in addition to the UUCC Treasurer, the UUCC President should be recorded by the bank as a backup check signer.

Barb Morris has set up Picnic Days on Saturday, March 15th and Saturday, April 19th at Indiana Dunes State Park. There is a $10 admission per car to get in. Barb will prepare a sign up sheet and if you choose you may car pool. Bring your own food for the picnic and we'll do an outdoor pot luck!
World Religions Classes

A series of classes on world religions will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Park Forest, 70 Sycamore Drive. They’ll be on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month starting on April 17 and continue for a minimum of nine sessions. Start time is 7:30 p.m.

The program is organized around a study guide developed by the Unitarian Universalist Association that uses the writings of Huston Smith as source material. The religions considered are Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Islam, Judaism, Christianity, and the Primal Religions.

Here’s a brief bio of Mr. Smith:
Huston Smith is Thomas J. Watson Professor of Religion and Distinguished Adjunct Professor of Philosophy, Emeritus, Syracuse University. For fifteen years he was Professor of Philosophy at M.I.T. and for a decade before that he taught at Washington University in St. Louis. Holder of twelve honorary degrees, Smith’s fourteen books include The World’s Religions which has sold over 2 ½ million copies, and Why Religion Matters which won the Wilbur Award for the best book on religion published in 2001. In 1996 Bill Moyers devoted a 5-part PBS Special, The Wisdom of Faith with Huston Smith, to his life and work.

The following YouTube clip is part of the Bill Moyer’s interview dealing with Hinduism. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=skjThzZrZ7o

For further information and to sign up, email Dan Feldt at danfeldtuucc@gmail.com or call (708) 481-5339 and reference Huston Smith World Religions discussion group.

Free Healthy Living Group

Second Thursday of the month at 1pm
12:00 Optional bring your own brown bag lunch
1:00-2:00 Topic

March 13, 2014 Brain Health led by Lynn Lidbury, LCPC
April 10, 2014 Stress Reduction led by Lynn Lidbury, LCPC
May 8, 2014 Meditation led by Lynn Lidbury and Bev Feldt

We all want to be happy and healthy. So let’s share our knowledge and experience and the wisdom of experts, to help each other and ourselves in our ongoing quest for health and happiness. We are starting a new open group, meeting once each month, focusing on a health related topic, sometimes with a volunteer guest speaker, sometimes with demonstrations, and hopefully always with sharing respect, and mutual support among participants.

Free tea and coffee
Optional: Bring a snack to share.
Join in the discussion. Invite friends!
FELLOWSHIP DINNER on Saturday, April 5, 2014
Social Hour at 6pm, Dinner at 7pm, and Program at 8pm.

Please reserve the date and remember to sign up with Darlene Obejda at church. The Fellowship Dinner is the kick off event for Pledge Sunday (the next day). We will celebrate our community of faith and fellowship. Members and friends will be encouraged to bring homemade desserts and a free will offering will be taken at the dinner. A gentle reminder is that the suggested cost of the meal is $20. Many are working to make this a happy event.

Helpers in the kitchen are needed before and/or after church and Forum. Just show up to learn how you can help. Any help is much appreciated!

**Welcome to Pledge Sunday 2014**

We invite you to join us on Pledge Sunday, April 6th to make a commitment of your expected financial support of our church for the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

During the Community Sunday lunch, following the worship service, members and friends of the church will be invited to meet with a member of the Pledge Drive Team to discuss the role of our community of faith in their life and the need for a sustainable budget for promoting our many programs. If you are comfortable signing a pledge card at that time you may do so or you may request time for further thought.

Pledges both large and small will ensure our continued Lifting Up and Reaching Out.

With great thanks,
Rich Treptow

**Spring Equinox Celebration**

Sat. March 22nd
5:30 pm

Join us for this family friendly ritual to welcome the return of Spring. This is the first celebration organized by the newly re-activated Four Winds CUUPs Chapter (Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans). We welcome the public, as well as the congregation! Please help spread the word and invite your friends! A community pot-luck will follow, so bring a dish to share.

For more information, contact:
Kandye Winterfeldt
kandyecare@yahoo.com

Nancy Irons
irons.nancy@gmail.com

Helpers in the kitchen are needed before and/or after church and Forum. Just show up to learn how you can help. Any help is much appreciated!
To update what’s going on children’s Religious Education, on February 23 we took a break from the standard curriculum and learned about Shabbat, the Jewish day of rest. Beverly Feldt led us in the prayer that begins Shabbat on Friday evenings and Russell Oram did the blessing over the challah, the customary Sabbath bread. We also limited our activities to those sanctioned by Jewish tradition. Russell and Erin O’Leary played an engaging game of chess. There’s great wisdom in taking a break from the habitual behaviors that we fill our days with.

On March 2, Jeff Green will be visiting our religious education class and sharing with us a course that he's developed on global warming. The activities that he’s created for the session sound very intriguing. Thanks, Jeff, for sharing your time and talents with our kids. I'd like to extend an invitation to anyone else who has a special interest they wish to share with our religious education classes that’s in line with our guiding principles. There's always time in our schedule for the generous people from our congregation who wish to contribute to the education of our children.

In adult Religious Education: the first series of the Huston Smith world religions discussion group is coming to an end in early April. We're planning to offer a second series starting on April 17. The discussion group will be meeting on the first and third Thursday of the month for two hours starting at 7:30. I'm hoping the 7:30 start time will be more convenient for those who commute longer distances from work. We will meet nine times to cover the various religions considered. If you would like more information, please contact me at danfeldtuucc@gmail.com. I'm also planning to offer another adult education class on a different topic. The plan is to find a course that has fewer sessions – most likely four or five. I’ll be using the congregational survey that was conducted in the fall for guidance. However, if you have other ideas, please let me know. You can e-mail me or talk with me in church the next couple of Sundays.

To help spread the word about all the exciting things that are happening at our church, please visit our Facebook page, and “Like” or better yet “Share” those things that you find particularly interesting. Let's use the power of social networks to let people know about the wonderful things that are happening at UUCC.

Shalom, ~Dan

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**Join the Canvass Team** - As a member of our church, you are invited to serve as a canvasser in this year’s Pledge Drive. The role is both brief and meaningful. Please contact me for further information.

Sincerely,
Rich Treptow - Treasurer
Soup Kitchen
Fundraiser for PADS
with optional donations for Respond Now
Sunday, March 2, 2014 11:30 a.m.

Come join us for delicious food and caring community as we raise funds to help the homeless.

Volunteers are needed to bring soup and brunch foods for the event. Helpers are needed for set-up and clean-up. You may declare your chosen role on the sign-up sheets available in the Gathering Room.

Contributions will be thankfully collected during the Soup Kitchen. All checks should be made out to UUCC. Checks with PADS written in the memo line will be used by our church Cook Team to buy groceries when they prepare meals for the homeless. Checks with Respond Now in the memo line will be passed on to our local agency dedicated to serving those in need.

Please be generous to these worthy causes.
Any Questions? Ask Darlene Obejda

Time for Spring Cleaning!

1) Coatroom Clean-out – Have you lost or left behind a coat at UUCC? Several unclaimed jackets have accumulated over the winter. Please check the items clustered at the far end of the coatroom on the left. They will be marked with a “Donation?” tag. Any coats unclaimed by the end of March will be given to a local charity.

2) Work Days – Sat. March 29th and April 5th, 9:00 to noon Join us for indoor and outdoor cleanup and fix-up prior to the Fellowship Dinner. Please bring your own work gloves/rake or rubber gloves/bucket. Lists of possible projects will be posted and supplies available. You are also welcome to tackle any task that has been calling to you. Refreshments will be provided.

For more information, contact Nancy Irons (irons.nancy@gmail.com).

Free Movie & Discussion
“Do the Math”
Friday, March 28, 7:00pm
6pm optional vegetarian pot luck dinner

Do the Math is a documentary film about the rising movement to change the terrifying math of our climate crisis and challenge the fossil fuel industry. This film follows Bill McKibben and the growing groundswell of climate activists who are fighting to save our planet from disastrous climate change. 2013 42 minutes

Free coffee, tea, popcorn. Optional: bring a snack to share or a vegetarian dish for pot-luck dinner. Join in the lively discussion. Invite friends!
Rainbow Cafe

Rainbow Cafe 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 Cafe is open every 3rd Friday of the month from 6:30-10:30 pm. More info: Dave Matteson 708-672-8837 or (714) 930-6134. RAINBOW CAFE will meet on March 21st at 6:30pm

Choir Rehearsals

Join the UUCC choir! Practice is on Sunday mornings, Please email Beverly Feldt at bevfeldt@gmail.com.

Silent Meditation, Mondays @ 7pm

This group has been cancelled for now. If anyone would be interested in facilitating this group please contact Diane at 708-481-5339.

Sacred Communication Workshops

March 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 more 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
7:30pm – 9pm

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

Free Healthy Living Group

2nd Thursday of the month at 1:00pm
12:00 Optional bring your own brown bag lunch
1-2pm Topic
March 13th - “Brain Health” Led by Lynn Lidbury, LCPC

Dances of Universal Peace:
3rd Saturday of the month.

Dances of Universal Peace are held on the 3rd Saturday 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.

Next Dances of UP: March 15th 2PM

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

The World’s Religions

1st and 3rd Thursdays at 7:30pm
Beginning April 17th

This program is organized around a study guide developed by the UUA that uses the writings of Huston Smith as source material. The religions considered are Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Islam, Judaism, Christianity, and the Primal Religions.

For fifteen years Huston Smith was Professor of Philosophy at M.I.T. and for a decade before that he taught at Washington University in St. Louis.

For further info email Dan Feldt at danfeldtuucc@gmail.com or call 708-481-5339.
**Friday, March 7, is World Day of Prayer 2014.** World Day of Prayer is an ecumenical celebration of informed prayer and prayerful action. You are invited to join in the prayer service written by the women of Egypt, which calls us to look for “streams in the desert.” This service will be held at 10am in the Church of St. Mary -227 Monee Rd.
Slow Consistent Change

One of the biggest challenges of climate change is the panic and wanting to go fast. Some of us are ready to take off in a whir, and others are putting on the brakes and saying, “Whoa there, fella.” Take your time and let’s work this out.

I am in a whirl of a hurry. It started with Darlene Obejda pointing out to me there was a meeting by Faith in Place in Park Forest to talk about their different programs that they offer from an ecological perspective. The one that caught my interest the most was their energy program partnered with Center for Neighborhood Technology. All you have to do is commit to spending money later on energy efficiency for your building and they will do a free evaluation of our premises. Along with that we can get different kinds of grants to help pay for the cost bringing down the overall cost of the project. Wow and double wow. Andy and I went to the Chicago meeting to get more details.

I am psyched and let’s fly at it. The board being diligent about our budget said, “We are watching our budget closely and can’t do that at the moment and possibly not for a couple of years.” Hmmm. Time to change gears. Let’s see, how do I do this? When one door closes, another one opens up. I remember how Dorea LaPorte funded the fireplace remodeling, with individual contributions in small amounts that bought all the materials. How can I raise money to start with easy changes in the church that we can do ourselves? Sell food like Robin Barrett did for Green Sanctuary? Started out simple with a crock pot full of chili?

The first goal is to replace lighting in the church in the sanctuary. $54 was raised which will buy a little under 5 light LED (light emitting diode) light bulbs. We have 18 bulbs to buy total for the ceiling. It will take awhile, but then everyone will be involved in helping to bring this about. Slow is ok in this case, because we are taking responsibility for ourselves in bringing it about. To bring a lower energy lifestyle into our culture, reduce a little carbon footprint, reduce a little cost in the church and enhance the quality of who we are as a people.

By the way, come into the next Care For the Earth adult forum which is March 9th. The topic will “What Can Our Energy Future Look Like”.

THE REAL STORY FROM UKRAINE

Have you been hearing about the social upheaval taking place in Ukraine right now and would like to learn more? We are in the planning stages of a Forum set to take place March 30th on this topic and would like to bring the real story of Ukraine right to our church.

Laurene Lambertino-Urquizo would like to have us Skype with her Facebook friend, Sergey Telizhenko, from Luhansk, Ukraine. Sergey has limited English, but is willing to try to speak with us to the best of his abilities. It would be useful to provide him with questions a few weeks ahead of time so he has time to prepare (and translate) his answers.

We need anyone who has an available laptop with Skype capabilities, or language proficiency in Ukrainian or Russian, to please contact Laurene. Or if you would just like to help with the project, please feel free to join us.

Sergey Telizhenko is a scientist in the Crimean branch of the Institute of Archaeology of the National Academy of Science of Ukraine in Simferopol, from 2007 to the present. He has a Ph.D. from Luhansk National University. Presently, he serves as an archaeologist working mostly in Crimea. The rest of the time he lives in Luhansk with his wife, daughter, and a cat named Foksey. Sergey and Laurene have been Facebook friends since 2009.
- WANTED -
Themed Baskets & Services to be Raffled

As a unique, fun and exciting way to fund-raise at the Fellowship Dinner, we are having a Themed Basket Raffle, and need donations of 10-12 baskets. Put together and donate a themed gift basket of goodies, collectibles, gourmet treats, artwork, etc. to be displayed and raffled during our upcoming Fellowship Dinner on April 5th, 2014. Also, donations of services, such as babysitting; music lessons; dinners or handi-person repairs would be great! Tap into whatever talent you may have and come up with something wonderful to share.

Please let us know that you plan to donate, and what the items or services will be. All donations should have a minimum value of $20 and must be submitted prior to March 30th. A drop off spot will be designated in the Gathering Room.

For further information: Nancy Irons (708-712-3228) or Dorea LaPorte (708-715-2312) or (P.S. - We can help with assembly and wrapping of baskets!)

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**Ticket Raffle Donation Form**

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YOU ARE INVITED

JOHNATHAN B FIELDS FOUNDATION SPRING CONCERT
April 26, 2014
6 pm - 9 pm

Freedom Hall
Saturday, April 26, 2014
410 Lakewood Blvd
Park Forest, IL 60466

Ticket Information
$20 In Advance
$25 At the Door
708-481-5466
www.jbfields.org

Featuring
East-West Band dedicated to recreating the varied styles and textures of both traditional blues and contemporary blues-based rock.

Los Ritmo Kings with songs ranging from mariachi music to the contemporary English and Latin songs of artists such as Ritchie Valens, Jose Feliciano and Carlos Santana.

Special performance from the children supported by the JB Fields Foundation through the Homewood-Flossmoor Suzuki Strings school of music.

Mission & Vision
The Johnathan B Fields Foundation seeks to redirect at-risk and low-income youth from negative behaviors by fostering self-worth and dignity through the applications of music, theater, and visual arts. Please come support our children!
Church Information
70 Sycamore Drive
Park Forest, IL 60466
PHONE: 708-481-5339
E-Mail: diane@uuccpf.org
Web: www.uuccpf.org

Office Administrator
Diane O'Connor
Office Hours: M, W, F 10:30am - 3:30pm
(E Please note from time to time some office hours vary)

Newsletter deadline is always the 20th of every month

*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