Summertime Waning

It’s been a good summer from my viewpoint. Just because. Because I’m getting around, because the weather has been nice, because I’ve been able to relax and enjoy it. I’ve been blessed.

Water has a lot to do with it. Whether at a lake in Michigan or swimming laps in the pool, there’s no doubt that being around water cheers me up. That’s why our annual Water Service, led by Pat Segner and a staple of our worship services for decades, tends to bring out our best as we reflect on where we’ve been and what we’ve been up to throughout the past year. As we listen to others tell the stories behind their small vial being poured into the mixing bowl, we get a glimpse into their lives and the experiences they treasure. It’s another way we get closer to one another and the world we live in.

Another hallmark of the end of summer is our annual Corn Roast, being held this year on September 12th. This event has taken on various forms over the years and recently we’ve been able to enjoy it on our new patio, which provides accommodations for lots of people and several grills as well. Not only corn, but all kinds of good food will be shared with everyone.

Traditionally, our “In-Gathering” service takes place the day after the Corn Roast. This event represents the unofficial opening of the new church year. Even though our fiscal year began July 1, UUCC has informally recognized the In-Gathering service as the beginning of our new church year.

Yes, no doubt it’s been a good summer. I hope yours has been, too. Blessings on you and yours.

Bruce
Applications are currently being accepted for a part-time position of Office Administrator at the Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Park Forest. The job would entail approximately 15 hours per week.

Strong computer skills, especially experience with Microsoft Office, are a definite plus. A demonstration of computer skills will be requested. Also, good communication and organization skills, the ability to manage several projects at once, and a willingness to be a team player are necessary for the person who fills this position, which will represent this church to our members and the public.

Applicants should submit their resume (with 2 references) and a cover letter addressed to the Board of Trustees, Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Park Forest, 70 Sycamore Dr., Park Forest, IL 60466.

Under the coordination of Pat Segner, our church has developed a tutoring project in the Park Forest Elementary Schools at Blackhawk School and Mohawk School. We read with children in their classrooms or they read to us. We began the week of April 13th, after Spring Break. We plan to go every two weeks for about two hours. Approximately eight people are involved. We would like more volunteers, so if you are interested contact Pat Segner (708-748-2217).

The school principals and children were very appreciative of our efforts and pleased to connect with us. I am thankful that experienced congregants are willing to offer this community service. Hopefully we will be expanding our service in the future. In Fellowship, Pat Segner

**PART-TIME CHURCH OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR POSITION**

Applications are currently being accepted for a part-time position of Office Administrator at the Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Park Forest. The job would entail approximately 15 hours per week.

Strong computer skills, especially experience with Microsoft Office, are a definite plus. A demonstration of computer skills will be requested. Also, good communication and organization skills, the ability to manage several projects at once, and a willingness to be a team player are necessary for the person who fills this position, which will represent this church to our members and the public.

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**Actions from Board of Trustees Meetings in July and August**

- At its July meeting, the board approved a request from Garden of Peace Ministries to rent our facility for a Bible study on Monday evenings from 7-9 p.m.
- A request from the choir to buy up to six new pieces of music for the coming year was approved by the board.
- The registration fee for Religious Education classes for the coming year was abolished by the board at the request of Dan Feldt.
- The Reorganization Committee is hard at work and determined that all of the church activities can be contained within nine “portfolios,” or groups.
- After considering a request, the board agreed to keep the start time of the Sunday service at 10 a.m., due to circumstances involving the renting of the church to other ministries.
- The board agreed on the following dates for key church activities: Corn Roast, September 12th; Solstice Candlelight Labyrinth, December 19th; Fellowship Dinner, April 23rd; Annual Congregational meeting, May 22nd.
- At its August meeting, the board approved a motion to negotiate a rental agreement with Miracle Center Church.
- The board approved a request from the choir to institute a mid-week rehearsal once per month and pay pianist Chris Ussery $60 for that rehearsal.
- Church Mutual raised its insurance premium for UUCC by 12.5%. Research will be undertaken to compare other insurance providers.

**Celebrate World Goddess Day** - Join the festivities on Sunday Sept. 6th, at 6:00pm, at First Unitarian Church of Hobart, IN. There will be Goddess-themed poems and prayers, chanting, a spiral dance, and other Goddess-related activities. Bring readings, drums, family and friends! Contact Nancy Irons (irons.nancy@gmail.com) if you would like to carpool to this event.

**Chicago Pagan Pride** – Sunday, Sept. 13th 11:00 am to 6:00 pm at Historic Pleasant Home, 217 Home Ave, in Oak Park, IL. Enjoy a day of free entertainment, workshops and vendors. Communal rituals will open and close this celebration. For more information, visit www.chicagopaganpride.org

**CUUPs Fall Equinox Celebration** – Saturday Sept. 26th 6:00 pm at UUCC. Join us for this family-friendly ritual to welcome Fall and to honor the turning of the star wheel. Pot luck dinner to follow. Bring your drums and a dish to share. For more information, contact Nancy Irons (irons.nancy@gmail.com)
26 women attended the UUCC Women’s Tea, some were from the Bridgeview Mosque. They began with a dialogue to get to know each other better. The conversation was lively & the food was great. We are considering doing this again in the future.

"The meeting of two personalities is like the contact of two chemical substances. If there is any reaction -- both are transformed." --C.G. Jung
**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. They have participated in training to become Listening Hearts.

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.

The Listening Hearts for September: **Pat Segner and Char Pierce**

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**Free Movie & Discussion**

**September 25th, 7pm**

**“Hot Coffee”**

Have you heard about the case of the woman who sued McDonald’s over spilled coffee, often cited as an example of citizens who use “frivolous” lawsuits to take unfair advantage of the American legal system? **HOT COFFEE** is an eye-opening documentary that exposes how corporations spend millions of dollars on propaganda campaigns to distort our views of lawsuits—forever weakening our civil justice system. By examining the impact of tort reform on the lives of ordinary citizens, the film shows how Americans give up their Constitutional rights in many ways without knowing it—for example by voting for caps on damages or signing away their rights in contracts. An interesting & illuminating film!

88 minutes  2011

Join in the lively discussion following the film!

Invite friends! Free tea, coffee, and snacks. Optional: bring a snack to share.

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**Family to Family is a course for families who are caring for individuals living with mental illness. Our next Family to Family class will start on September 9th and then meet every Monday and Wednesday at 7PM until October 14th at the Sertoma Center, 4331 Lincoln Highway (Rt 30), Matteson, IL. Please contact Len Rentz at 708-310-2038 to register.**

Our Family Support Group meets on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 2PM at Advocate South Suburban Hospital, 17800 S. Kedzie in Hazel Crest, IL. Please contact Marianne Bithos at 708-335-4008 if you are planning on attending.

UUCC/ Park Forest will host **In Our Own Voice**, a program in which two speakers share their personal stories about living with a mental illness and achieving recovery. Call Marianne at 708-335-4008 if you would like us to present to a group of people.

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Please send any ideas, comments or suggestions for the UUCC newsletter to Diane at diane.oconnor@att.net or call 708-758-5715
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. More info: Call Dave Matteson 708-672-8837 or (714) 930-6134.

RAINBOW CAFÉ will meet on September 18th. The movie shown will be: MORGAN

Depressed and despairing after an accident renders him paraplegic, Morgan gets a new lease on life when he meets Dean on a basketball court. But when Morgan risks his life entering a bike race and Dean walks out, he is pushed to the brink once again.

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.

Free Healthy Living Group
The Healthy Living Group will NOT meet in September

Helpers in the kitchen are needed on Sundays before the service and after coffee hour.

Sacred Communication Workshop
September 26th at 10:30am
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.

Buddhist Meditation
Learn and enjoy the simple, straight-forward practice of meditation. Please join us for sitting and walking meditation in the Zen and Theravadin 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 September 20th

QiGong with Jim Kobus
Most Thursdays @5pm
(This class will be held typically every Thursday of the month but there will be exceptions so you must send Jim your email if you are interested in participating.)

It is suggested that you not eat before class. Please bring your own water. $5 suggested donation per class.
Email Jim: emiton1@aol.com
For questions call: 708-799-1925
What’s going on in RE?
by Dan Feldt, Director of RE

Kids are flocking to our new pre-K/Kindergarten Activities Center. It's got lots of fun things to do, as these pictures show. Part of the fun is learning about other peoples’ beliefs and ways of life by looking at the festivals they celebrate. The first religions to be considered are paganism and Native American faiths. There will be a number of field trips this year. The first one on the calendar is a visit to the Harvest Powwow in Naperville on September 27th. Anyone interested is invited to come along. Information will be in the RE folder on the Director of Religion Education’s office door.

The kids are not the only ones to have fun this year. We’ve got some exciting adult education classes in the works. One will be the discussion group on Huston Smith’s World Religions. There are some other choices being considered:

* **Spirit of Life Workshops** offer participants space, time, and community to explore their Unitarian Universalist spirituality. Each focuses on a different aspect of the spiritual life, framed by the lyrics of Carolyn McDade’s song “Spirit of Life.” Like the song, the workshops are designed to be welcoming to Unitarian Universalists of many spiritual and theological persuasions. Participants are invited to explore inclusive definitions of spirituality and recognize the spiritual aspects of their lives. Reflecting, speaking, and listening are core activities in each workshop.


* **What We Choose: Ethics for Unitarian Universalists.** We are regularly faced with moral choices, big and small. What is the right thing to do when faced with a dilemma at work? What is the most ethical course for a community, state, or nation to follow, and how much am I prepared to invest in advocating for that course? How does morality or ethics enter my food and eating choices? How should morality or ethics enter my consumer decisions? How do we treat others? What must I do to follow the values of my Unitarian Universalist faith tradition?

**Let’s chalk it up as a great year of learning!**

In faith,
Dan
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The Medical Cannabis Education Association meeting is being held on September 6th at 12 noon in Classroom 1. This month’s topics will be Appetite Stimulation & State & Federal Bills. Attendance is Free!

Sacred Communications Workshop meets this month at 10:30am on September 26th.
Frank Markowicz is a member of Citizens’ Climate Lobby and participated in lobbying Congressional and Senate Leaders in Washington in June with over 900 participants.

Citizens’ Climate Lobby is a non-profit, non-partisan, grassroots advocacy organization focused on national policies to address climate change. In order to generate the political will necessary for passage of our Carbon Fee and Dividend proposal we train and support volunteers to engage elected officials, the media and the public. Well-trained citizens organized by congressional district and a good support system can more than influence the political process. Based on what climate scientists and economists tell us, we believe that Carbon Fee and Dividend is the best first step to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to mitigate the impacts of a changing climate.

Come and learn about CCL’s Great Lakes Regional Conference which will be held September 26-27th at Camp Manitoqua Retreat Center near Frankfort, IL. For more information, check out our website at http://citizensclimatelobby.org.

Americans For Safe Access Program

Educate yourself and/or your community by attending a

Truth About Medical Marijuana Workshop

The series includes three workshop sessions. These workshops are designed to reach out to those who already support safe access as well as people who are not already involved. Several workshops will include veterans outreach activities.

Sept 8th, Oct 10th, Nov 6th (7-9pm)

September 8th at UUCC: "Science Behind Cannabis" 7:00 to 9:00 PM.

Come learn if cannabis can help YOU.

Dances of Universal Peace starts again on September 20th and continues to meet every 3rd Sunday at 2PM.
"STOP THE CHOP"
COMMUNITY FORUM!

“What a great event --
What a great turnout! Great teamwork made it happen!”

Phil Kadner (Chicago Tribune): “Even people who favor taxes want a tax break”

Several political action groups joined together this week for a "Stop the Chop" rally in Park Forest designed to alert people to the dangers of pending state budget cuts to social programs, but the speakers unintentionally highlighted the voter contradictions that may be at the heart of the stalemate in Springfield.

A flier for the Tuesday night meeting at the Unitarian Universalist Community Church warned that "Gov. Rauner is putting public health, education, child care and other human needs on the chopping block" and promised a community forum that would get to the facts, provide alternatives to the proposed cuts and explain to residents how they could fight back.

(To view the entire article, click here)

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New Sales Tax Exemption Certificate is Available!
The State of Illinois recently renewed our Sales Tax Exemption Certificate. If you make purchases for the church that later need to be reimbursed please present this certificate at the time of purchase to avoid paying sales tax. You may pick up a copy of the new certificate in the office or send the office an email request for a .pdf version of the certificate.

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September Forum

Sept 6th: Community Potluck Sunday

Sept 13th: Frank Markowicz will speak about Citizen’s Climate Lobby. Learn more about CCL and their procedures. See Green Sanctuary Committee column for more details.

Sept 20th: To Be Announced

Sept 27th: To Be Announced

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Last Call to Update the UUCC Directory for the 2015-16 Edition!!
Please review your entry in the current Directory located in the Gathering Room and marked "Corrections for 2015-16." If your entry is fine as is, please initial it to show that it has been reviewed. If corrections are needed, please make any necessary changes directly in that Directory. We hope to finalize the new church directory before the end of September. Thank you for your cooperation.
By Valerie Birk:
Shows run from October through May and are the 2nd Saturday of each month at 8:00 PM. There will not be a show in the month of January (stay home and cuddle with someone you love; it's going to be a lot colder then...) The cover charge is $15.00 and includes snacks, coffee and tea. There are additional beverages and homemade baked goods available for purchase. Come check out top notch performers in an intimate and friendly venue nestled in a beautiful woodland setting. Don't forget that Edgar's Place Coffee House now has a page at

https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100009281308525

Here are the dates:

October 10th 2015: CLAUDIA SCHMIDT
November 14th, 2015: HARPETH RISING
December 12th, 2015: TRICIA ALEXANDER, DIANNA LAFFEY and ALPHA STEWART, JR.
February 13th, 2016: CHRIS FARRELL and DEAN MILANO
March 12th, 2016: FEBRUARY SKY
April 9th, 2016: FEBRUARY SKY
April 9th, 2016: ERIC LAMBERT and CHRIS WALZ
May 14th, 2016: ANNE HILLS

A look ahead: Wednesday, September 23rd at 7:30 PM: I will be hosting a house concert with dazzling French guitarist Claude Bourbon, coming all the way from England, where he makes his home. Email me for reservations or any questions at valeriebirk@gmail.com. Claude's playing never fails to thrill everyone who has the pleasure to see him. I hope to see many of you for an exciting evening of music! Enjoy the rest of your summer. Remember to keep listening!

~Valerie

RED TENT WEEKEND With Dr. Isadora Gabrielle Leidenfrost

You won't want to miss this! SAVE THE DATE!
October 9-11, 2015

Come and take some time for yourself or get some "girl-time" in an inspiring space. You've been invited to a Red Tent and movie screening of "Things We Don't Talk About: Women's Stories from the Red Tent."

The DeKoven Center       600 21st Street       Racine, WI 53403       (262)633-6401

http://www.dekovencenter.org/about-us
Leanne Roth and Wyll Mull were civil unionized, as they call it, last December 12th. Leanne says “We are celebrating with a party. We will not be having a ceremony—just music, dancing and food. I picked September 5th because our 3rd year anniversary of meeting is on Wyll’s birthday, September 6th. We met at McDonald’s. A tradition was that when the song “I am not as good as I once was” by Toby Keith was played, all of the ladies would cut in on each other to dance with him. I did not want to, but one of the ladies gave me “the mother look” and ordered me to cut in on her! Best thing I ever did!”

Chi Marie Quinn Mull
Requests the Honor of Your Presence at the Celebration of the official union of her pack!
Wyll Mull
&
Leanne Roth

Please join us for an afternoon mingle
Full of Music, Dancing Food and Fun!
All players and singers are invited to bring your instruments and join in.

Saturday, September 5, 2015
2:00-7:00

Unitarian Universalist Church 70 Sycamore Park Forest Il 60466

Please DO NOT bring any gifts
Please DO bring your favorite appetizer or dessert to share
There is no alcohol allowed at the party
Children allowed
RSVP—Regrets Only

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of Suzie Brown’s farewell gathering at UUCC on August 2nd.
Church Information
70 Sycamore Drive
Park Forest, IL 60466
PHONE: 708-481-5339
E-Mail: admin@uuccpf.org
Web: www.uuccpf.org

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