Sunday Worship Schedule
10:00 AM

March 5th
Title: The Original Intention of Love
By Tom Burdett
Moving from the ridiculous to the political, Tom Burdett questions whether we can "Make America Great" or "Make America Good." Greatness vs. Goodness. He will also query as to whether we can ever discover the ORIGINAL INTENT of our founding fathers. We will discuss the argument between Archie and Edith Bunker, about how best to lace one's bowling shoes... and we will discuss whether we need a radical change in the direction of our thinking, the better to be able to ROCK again.

March 12th
Title: The Sensuality of Unitarian Universalism
By Reverend Denise Tracy
In this service we will explore the five senses and the contributions of our faith to the miraculous and wonderful world of the senses. I will not tell more. You will have to attend to experience the sights, sounds, smell, touch, and taste of Unitarian Universalism.

March 19th
Title: Act Now, Supplies Limited
Part 2 of 2
By Monica Regan
The spiritual principle of a free and responsible search for truth and meaning.

March 26th
Title: Evolutionary Spirituality
By Richard Lewis
Our evolving universe provides the gift of experience through which free-will creatures may participate in the gradual perfection of the finite cosmos. Evolution is definitely going somewhere. Evolution has a purpose which is to make things better. Evolution is gradually moving in the direction of greater beauty, truth, and goodness. Evolution is progressive. At this service, Dick Lewis will address the Five Tenets of Evolutionary Spirituality.

UPCOMING UUCC EVENTS

Uniting As One

We Are One.

Two important UUCC events are planned for April. Please enter them onto your calendar.

Our annual Fellowship Dinner will be held on Saturday evening April 1st. This event is a festive celebration of our community of faith. Its theme this year is “Uniting As One.” The theme is an acknowledgment that even in the challenging political climate that we face, our commitment to performing service is never ending.

A delicious meal will be followed by acknowledgement of the successes of our current year. After dinner, perhaps you would like to recite a short poem or perform a musical selection by yourself or with others. Bruce Swiecicki is coordinating the event. He would be pleased to hear your suggestions or interest in helping out.

Our annual Canvass Sunday is scheduled for Sunday April 2nd. A group of church members have volunteered to serve as canvassers on our pledge drive team. A canvasser will be assigned to meet with you individually to discuss the role of the church in your life and to invite you to make a pledge of your intended contribution for the coming year. You may meet with your canvasser after the Sunday service or in the week that follows. Please speak with Leonard Kirchner or Rich Treptow if you have questions or suggestions.
One of the reasons why I was concerned about our congregation and its members in the aftermath of the November 2016 election was frankly not a political one, but a psychological one: I didn’t want people to become depressed or apathetic in reaction to what was happening in Washington, and as a consequence to feel isolated, alone and afraid. That is why I was so gladdened by the fact that so many of you participated in demonstrations, either locally in the Chicago area or even in Washington, D.C. itself. Well, it looks like I don’t have to worry about people feeling isolated or apathetic!

As a leader, I feel my job is not just to be a servant of the congregation in helping to bring about internal changes that will help our congregation grow in size and strength, but to reach out externally and make connections in several directions, including within the Unitarian-Universalist movement itself.

I recently turned in a certification to our parent organization, the Unitarian-Universalist Association, which allows us to be recognized as an official member congregation of UUA, and even more important, gives us a voice at the General Assembly to be held in New Orleans, LA from June 21-25. The certification document asked us to give information on the size of our congregation as well as our financial status; this will be used to assess how much UUA thinks we should contribute as a fair share to the parent organization. One of the elements of the certification was a survey about the various programs and services that UUA offers its members. Some of them I was aware of, such as the Our Whole Lives sexuality education program that our congregation has participated in, but there were many others that I was not aware of and I want to make sure that I and other members of the Board of Trustees look into these programs to see which of them might be of benefit to our community, including those relating to social justice and resistance against policies of the new administration that are anti-immigrant, or oppressive of minorities.

Another place I am reaching out to is the Integral community, the philosophical movement that has been inspired by Ken Wilber and centers around the idea of spiritual evolution. I read an essay he wrote called “Trump and a Post-Truth World,” and I wanted to share some of the insights he gave that may show those members of our congregation that are currently reeling from finding themselves in a “Post-Truth World” a way forward into healing our community and indeed our nation into a “Post-Donald Trump World.”

The first point Ken Wilber makes is that the phrase “post-truth” itself is misleading. According to the Oxford Dictionary, post-truth is an adjective defined as “relating to or denoting circumstances in which objective facts are less influential in shaping public opinion than appeals to emotion and personal belief.” Ken says that in reality, this attitude is not “post-truth”, but “pre-truth.” Let me explain using Spiral Dynamics, which uses different colors to describe the various stages of evolution that people’s values go through, either on an individual basis or collectively as a culture.

BEIGE—following natural instincts, organized around extended families or clans (survivalist)
PURPLE—following magical thinking, organized around tribes (ethnocentric based on race)
RED—following dominance, organized around chiefdoms (authoritarian, egocentric leaders)
BLUE—following higher authority, organized around religious institutions or nation-states (ethnocentric based on ideology, traditionalist or conformist)
ORANGE—following rules, organized around constitutions or corporations (rational, world centric based on freedom)
GREEN—following human needs, organized around distributive economics and justice (post-conventional, pluralistic, world centric based on equality)

These six levels of value development have one characteristic in common, which is that they all see each other as competitors in a zero-sum game of “if they win, we lose.” Spiral Dynamics points to a higher stage of value evolution of YELLOW, which is the first “second-tier” stage of development. In the second tier of development stages, each of the lower stages is seen not as negative in and of itself, but capable of healthy and unhealthy manifestations. For example, the tribal rivalry that occurs at the PURPLE stage has unhealthy manifestations in gangs fighting over turf in urban environments, but the healthy manifestation of PURPLE can be seen in the rivalry that occurs between followers of different sports teams.

Continued
Ken says that the post-truth adjective is better used to describe those members of the GREEN value meme of multiculturalism, where there is no one culture that holds a monopoly on truth, and that there are multiple cultural truths. What the administration is doing by relabeling “lies” as “alternative facts” is trying to erase the whole concept of truth itself; Ken prefers calling this “pre-truth” and it comes straight out of the RED value structure of “listen to what the leader says and obey” and don’t bother processing it with rationality, which would be what someone from an ORANGE or higher stage would do.

Here’s how to describe the political structure of country now using Spiral Dynamics: there are two main political parties, the Republicans and the Democrats. The Republicans consist of people who are at the PURPLE stage of development (white nationalists), BLUE (traditionalists in terms of religion such as evangelical Christians), and ORANGE (Wall-Street Republicans). They were united by an authoritarian leader who is at the RED stage of value development, and they all hope that their cultural values will be supported by a Republican administration. The Democrats consist of ORANGE (establishment Democrats who supported Hillary Clinton) and GREEN (progressive Democrats who supported Bernie Sanders or third-party alternatives).

The political problem for Republicans is that as the current Administration slides into corruption, scandal, and basic ineptitude—the disastrous rollout of the Muslim travel ban and the Congress’ inability to come up with a replacement for the Affordable Care Act come to mind—the fault lines in the party will start to show and party unity will be severely tested. After the failure in 2012 to elect a President, the Republican Party did a post-mortem analysis that said that the country’s demographics will give minorities an ever-increasing amount of political power and the white majority will be correspondingly diminished. So they recommended politics that would reach out to minorities. What did the Party establishment do? The exact opposite. In electing who they did, and trying to turn back the hands of time, they may have bought a short-term gain, but they are going to pay a heavier long-term price. To evolve, they either have to cut loose on the PURPLE and RED elements in their party, and go forward with the BLUE or ORANGE values, or their party may suffer a defeat in 2018.

The political problem for Democrats is that, with young people increasingly on the side of GREEN rather than the ORANGE value system, will the establishment re-align itself with the leading edge of cultural evolution or resist it? What is interesting is that many corporations are realizing where the edge of social evolution is going, towards more inclusion, and are willing to back in with their bottom line. Here’s a tale of two companies, Nordstrom and Under Armour, the former of which opposed the current Administration by not carrying the line of clothing by the President’s daughter, and the latter of which has publicly praised the current administration. Nordstrom is doing okay in the marketplace, but Under Armour is suffering. The lesson is people are taking their dollars to shop where their values are being reflected more faithfully. So GREEN can selectively reach out to ORANGE to try to heal the rift within their own party using capitalist free-market forces as a tool.

Those in the GREEN meme who are ready to go to the Integral stage of YELLOW should see Republicans as potential social justice allies and not first and foremost as political enemies. As an example of this, the Reverend William Barber, who spoke at the Democratic National Convention, has created a weekly “Moral Monday” march in North Carolina to protest the state government’s overreach into socially regressive policies. He says he regularly has Republicans joining the protests as well as Democrats, because he focuses on two concepts: morality and the rule of law, which attracts those in the BLUE value meme among Republicans.

For those at the RED and PURPLE levels, who listen to Fox News to get their information, it is hard to reach out to them using rationality or empathy, the tools that someone from an ORANGE or GREEN level might use. However, all of them can be reached through the value proposition of BEIGE, or survival, when it comes to preserving their own health and their own money. When they see that the current administration is working to dismantle the health care system, and the social security system that keep them alive and not living in Dickensian squalor, they will no longer support it, and we will be closer to living in a post-Trump world in 2018.

So the message is continue reaching out and find those who will not only resist the rollback of social justice that the Administration is trying to attempt, but to eventually get enough people together to “roll it forward!” Viva la Evolucion!
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.

Our March Listening Hearts volunteers will be announced at our Sunday services.

An Invitation to Become a Canvasser

Would you enjoy making a few new friends at UUCC? Discussing the importance of the church in your life and theirs? Encouraging them to report their intended financial contribution to the church for the coming fiscal year? If so, I invite you to become a canvasser for Pledge Drive 2017.

In the role of a canvasser you would be assigned to have conversations with a few individual UUCC members after church on Canvass Sunday April 2nd. Or if necessary, you could contact them in the following week. Each conversation should conclude with a suggestion that the person completes a pledge card reporting the total contribution they expect to make to the church in the year beginning in July.

If you would consider becoming a canvasser, please contact me to express your interest and to learn more. A few new team members are needed.
~Rich Treptow (708) 747-0649

Free Movie and Discussion
Friday, March 24 - 7pm
Children of Syria
(How Four Child Refugees Said Goodbye to Syria)

A startlingly intimate look at the Syrian war and the refugee crisis, through the eyes of some of the youngest people living through them. The story of four children surviving in war-torn Aleppo, and their escape to a new life in Germany. FRONTLINE documentary. 60 minutes.

Join in the discussion following this documentary film.
Free coffee, tea and popcorn. Invite friends! Donations Appreciated!

Coming April 8th: Edgar’s Place Coffeehouse Proudly Presents Dana Cooper
What else is happening in Park Forest?

INDOOR FARMERS MARKET - 2017
March 25
April 29
8 AM - Noon | Marie Irwin Center

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - MARCH 4, 2017

This year, Faith United Protestant Church is hosting World Day of Prayer on Saturday, March 4, at 10:00 am. (WDP) is a worldwide ecumenical movement of women of many faith traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year on the first Friday in March. Each year a different country serves as the writer of the World Day of Prayer worship service. The 2017 World Day of Prayer service will begin at the first sunrise on March 3, 2017, in the Pacific region and, following the Earth’s orbit, will spread around the world. UUCC of Park Forest will be included. Refreshments served after the service.

Gloria Steinem named Kristin “a one-woman argument against the notion that the women’s movement doesn’t have a sense of humor.”

Kristin Lems is a versatile composer, songwriter, folksinger and performing artist from Evanston, Illinois. As a teenager, Kristin picked up the guitar and wholeheartedly raised her voice as part of the movement to make a better world. Kristin brought her upbeat musical stage presence to nationwide events for the ERA and women’s rights, safe energy, peace, racial equality, and other pressing causes.

Kristin Lems has shared the stage with two First Ladies, Maya Angelou, Captain Jacques Cousteau, Gloria Steinem, Helen Caldicott and Alan Alda, and performed a full song on Nightline. Musicians include Pete Seeger, Malvina Reynolds, Holly Near, Dana Fogelber, Koko Taylor, Peter, Paul and Mary, the BoDeans, and many others.

Kristin has been the recipient of numerous awards. Most recently, an award, the Kristin Lems Social Change through Music Aware, was created by the Women in the Arts Foundation for the 40th National Women’s Music Festival, and Kristin received the first award. Sneak a peak of a performance by clicking here. Please visit http://www.kristinlems.com for more information about Kristen Lems.

Saturday, March 11, 2017 at 7:30pm
Edgar’s Place Coffee House
proudly presents
Kristin Lems
$15 cover charge at the door
If you are interested in this FREE item, or if you have items you would like us to post, contact Diane at 708-758-5715 or email her at diane.oconnor@att.net.

Size Medium Men’s Black Patchwork Leather Jacket

CLAUDIA SCHMIDT at ROUTE ONE HOUSE CONCERTS on SUNDAY, MARCH 12TH at 3:00 PM!!

Suggested donation: $20.00, includes snacks and beverages.
Please email valeriebirk@gmail.com to make a reservation.
Once you make a reservation she will give you her address and directions to her home.

“Hope to see many of you for this opportunity to see one of folk (and jazz!) music’s finest performers!

Help us continue our celebration of Women's History Month with the legendary Claudia Schmidt. Claudia wowed our Edgar's Place audience last year and is now doing me the honor of coming to my home for a more intimate show. Claudia never fails to fully engage and totally enthrall her audiences, whether it's at a small gathering like our house concert or a packed festival stage.

Click HERE for a peak at one of her performances.

More than 4 decades as a touring professional have found Michigan native Claudia Schmidt traversing North America as well as Europe in venues ranging from intimate clubs to 4000 seat theaters and festivals in front of 25,000 rapt listeners. She has recorded 19 albums of mostly original songs, exploring folk, blues and jazz idioms featuring her acclaimed 12 string guitar and mountain dulcimer playing.”

Check out Claudia's website at http://www.claudiaschmidt.com

~Valerie
The Adult Education UU Gabfest had an excellent discussion based on the UU World article “Into the Beyond -- changing how we do church is scary, but not changing means decline and a lost opportunity.” We talked about how we can reach out to the many people who identify with UU principles but don’t want to be affiliated with any congregation. How do we serve this population? How can they interact with our faith? We talked about how we can use social media to reinvent some of the cherished practices of our church, such as Covenant Groups and Circle Suppers. We discussed how we can bring the spirit of these activities online and invite people to join us in ways that fit their lives.

UUCC has been invited to the Frankfort mosque for “Coffee ‘n’ More with your Muslim Neighbors” on March 4 from 10:00 am to noon. Khalid Mozaffar, who welcomed our Religious and Character Education group last fall, writes “We have been truly blessed with the kindest neighbors and friends, near and far, who have been reaching out to us to express their support, love and their concerns. Thus we are using this opportunity to invite those folks to visit our mosque, to thank them for their kindness in person and to tour our building and meet some Muslims.” See their invitation elsewhere in this newsletter.

The youth group is organizing a “Care to Cook” brunch for Comers Ronald McDonald House in Hyde Park on May 27. We still have space for a few short-order cooks. See Sam, Quinn, Francesca, Zach, Colin or Dan for more information. There’s a signup sheet in the gathering room on Sundays.

Some pictures from the elementary RCE; they are building their own universe.
March 5th - No Forum - Community Sunday Potluck

March 12th – Dr. Martin Luther King’s Speech with Hunter Havlin Adams III
Getting the language straight for today.

March 19th – UU Gabfest with Dan Feldt
A conversation about issues important to UUs, drawn from the UU World magazine.

March 26th – Town Hall Meeting with Jerome Rowley
An opportunity for discussion and updates on issues important to UUCC.
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.

March 17th: “4th Man Out”

A small town car mechanic comes out to his blue collar friends (a disruption to their dynamic which they now must try and overcome with alcohol, Tinder dates and forgiveness). A delightful buddy comedy. Everyone is welcome to come socialize and have a good time!

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 RETURNING March Date: 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.

If you would like to attend, contact: Rev. Henrietta Byrd at 312-593-4732 or email her at iforgiveforme@gmail.com

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

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 Noon.

MCEA will meet on March 5th. All are welcome!

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 on March 19th

The UUCC Men’s Group

Men’s group is scheduled to meet at 7pm on March 6th & 20th and April 3rd & 17th.

For more information, contact Colin Kirchner at colinkirchner@gmail.com
With the changes in the political landscape, how is renewable energy going to do? We have gone several steps forward with the last 8 years, but are we going to go backwards now? So far the answer appears to be no. A good thing to achieve is, independent economic viability. So how is renewable energy doing in the world of competition for our dollars?

10 years ago, I was arguing for renewable energy in the comments sections of where ever I could find a place to talk about it. I didn’t have examples to present of where an actual utility was thinking of renewable energy as their main power source. From the quote below, this is no longer true today. It is part of the support in the last administration that brought us this far in just 8 years. This is really a transformation without the general population being aware of it.

Coming Clean: the Blog of Executive Director Michael Blume

David Saggau, CEO of Great River Energy, which provides energy to electric co-ops in Minnesota, made this point about wind energy at an energy policy forum in Minnesota:

"In the past, we tended to think of our coal resources as baseload and every other resource being supplemental to that. I would suggest to you that wind is quickly becoming the new baseload; and to be viable going forward, all other sources must be flexible enough to be supplemental to the wind."

Is renewable energy viable in the market?
1. Wind and solar both beat nuclear power. A few UU’s have voiced support for nuclear. And we can still choose that option if we wish to. You just have to pay for the large up front costs.
2. Wind beats coal in new plant costs. I was hearing this as a goal 8 years ago. Admittedly not knowing the economics of it, I thought it was a long ways off. Well, welcome to the new reality.
3. Solar is not far behind coal.
4. As soon as our society properly puts a price on carbon pollution, wind and solar win hands down.

Why Wind and Solar May Survive Under Trump Administration

The more we use clean energy, the more sustainable we can become over time. It is a step by step process and before you know it, the world has been transformed. I have a utility based 100% renewable energy option that I purchase for my electricity. Ask me about my option or choose one of your own. Mine was recommended by Sierra Club.
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**Coming April 23, 2017 - Plant and seed exchange!** (Right after the service). We will be exchanging seeds and plants for the upcoming gardening season. Please bring seeds and young plants to share. We will have blank, empty seed packages available for getting seeds home without confusion.
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