Sunday Worship Schedule
10:00 AM

May 7th
Title: It's a Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood: The Theology of Fred Rogers
By Reverend Denise Tracy
Where your cardigan sweater...if you have one.
We will talk about the lasting legacy of Fred Rogers.

May 14th
Title: In the Name of the Mother
By Angela Denk
A diverse discussion on the concept of “Mom.”

May 21st
Title: The Power of Myth, Magic and Fantasy in Folk Tales and Songs
By February Sky
Since before the dawn of recorded history, human beings have shared and passed on stories and songs containing elements of myth, magic and fantasy. We will explore the power of this type of tale in folk tales and songs, both ancient and modern.

May 28th
Title: Spiritual Intelligence
By Jerome Rowley
We will explore the idea of “Spiritual Intelligence” which means defining what a person’s horizon of ultimate concern is--starting with our own self when a young child, and then expanding to include family, community, country, the environment and the people of the world.

*Annual Business Meeting*

The Board of Trustees has scheduled our Annual Business Meeting for Sunday, May 21st. The meeting will be conducted in the Sanctuary following the worship service. Its agenda will include a discussion and approval of the 2017-2018 Annual Operating Fund Budget.

UPCOMING EVENTS
(See more details for each event inside this newsletter)

Mark Dvorak and Tom Rasely will perform at this month’s Edgar’s Place Coffeehouse. A very special double bill with the Midwest’s master of song & style, Mark Dvorak, paired with Michigan’s acclaimed guitar master & composer Tom Rasely. A one-of-a-kind evening!

Dave Rudolf will be hosting a CD release party at UUCC on Saturday, May 20th, $15 per person.
More details to come!!

Free Movie and Discussion: Before the Flood
Friday May 26th at 7pm features Leonardo DiCaprio on a journey as a United Nations Messenger of Peace uncovering the reality of climate change.

May Forum
(Held shortly after our Sunday Services except for the first Sunday of the month when we have Community Sunday)

May 7th - No Forum: Potluck Sunday
May 14th - Join us to share poems, quotes, and personal stories in honor of mothers and mothering.
May 21st - No Forum: Annual Congregational Meeting
May 28th - UU Gabfest with Dan Feldt: A conversation about issues important to UUs, drawn from the UU World magazine. Contact Dan in advance for links to articles to be discussed.
I am always proud of the achievements of members of the congregation when it comes to participation in social justice movements, but I was particularly proud of the representation by several members of this church in the various Marches for Science that occurred on Saturday, April 22nd. We have several members of our church who are scientists, who have been trained in the sciences, or who have an amateur interest in science, particularly when it comes to climate science, and many of them were out in full force this past weekend.

One of the problems I had with so-called “organized religion” (I grew up as a Catholic) was that it seemed like religion and science were in conflict, and that when I was in college, I felt I was faced with the false choice of following religion or following science. So, since I was studying physics, and wanted to follow science, I gave up on identifying myself as belonging to a religion.

However, my interest in spirituality was kindled later in life in the early 1990s by a program that Bill Moyers did on his World of Ideas program that featured a series of interviews with Joseph Campbell, a scholar of mythology whose book A Hero with a Thousand Faces was credited with inspiring George Lucas to create the trilogy of Star Wars movies.

I found that every civilization had some form of religious expression, and if that is so, then there is something objectively real about it at its core, even if the surface expression of it varies from culture to culture. How to square that with the materialism behind the scientific worldview was somewhat of a puzzle for me, until I came across Ken Wilber’s writings on Integral Theory in the 1990s.

Each experience of reality actually has two dimensions, the individual and the collective, and the interior vs. the exterior. If we are meditating, we can explore the interiors of our minds through introspection, or sense the temperature of the room through the exterior of our bodies (our skin). As individuals our exterior bodies are connected to the environment (the collective), and our interior thoughts are also connected to the collective through our culture. The combination of these two sets of two dimensions creates four quadrants of experience, with the upper left (UL) being the individual interior (which is the realm of psychology and of individual spiritual experiences), the individual exterior (the realm of science), the collective interior (the realm of culture and religion), and the collective exterior (the realm of communities and the laws that govern them).

With this expanded framework, some of the apparent conflicts I had between religion and science became clear. Science is in the upper-right quadrant and the truths that it tells are true, but only if confined to that quadrant. Science tells a partial truth, and religion tells another truth by seeing reality from a different quadrant (or perspective). The real problem comes from people who see reality from different quadrants or perspectives and say, “my perspective is the only one that is true”. We have to have a big enough picture to see that BOTH your and my perspective reveal partial truths, and we should have mutual respect for them.

Continued
So I see no conflict between religion and science per se; I see that there can be conflict between the perspectives that created them, and Unitarian-Universalists are people who have a good enough cognitive grasp on this idea that we can embrace both in our congregation and in our larger UU community. After all, on either side of our chalice on the podium where the celebrant speaks are two sculptures in the form of a double-helix, the form that a DNA molecule makes. The sculpture to me represents not just physical evolution, the engine of which is the DNA molecule itself, but it also represents the principle of spiritual evolution, and we honor both in our congregation. That is one of the reasons why I am very happy to be part of this community, and why I feel very at home here. I hope you do too!

~Jerome

Our Pledge Drive Continues

I am pleased to report that Pledge Drive 2017 is going well. To date we have received 53 pledges for the coming fiscal year with contributions totaling $60,238.

The pledge drive is being conducted by our Canvass Team. Its members are Jeff Fields, JoAnn Franczek, Nancy Irons, John Kasang, Colin Kirchner, Leonard Kirchner, Shirley McDonald, Barb Morris, Pat Segner, Joyce Sligar, Jennifer Westbrook-Krusza, DeAnn Wilson and Emily Zaber.

If by chance you have not yet made a pledge, please consider doing so. Contact me and I will ask a canvasser to speak with you. After a brief discussion of the importance of UUCC in your life and in our community, you will be invited to make a pledge.

Sincerely,
Rich Treptow  (708) 747-0649
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. 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 May Listening Hearts volunteers will be announced at our Sunday services.

PADs Soup Kitchen Fund Raiser

This event will be on May 7th this year at our May Community Sunday. There will be a sign up sheet in the gathering room. In the past we have had so many wonderful delicious soups!

Our outstanding PADs team served over 1,000 men and women and one child this season from October to April. They gave so generously of their time and resources. Even though we have volunteers make our chili the rest of the groceries for breakfast, lunch and dinner cost about $2,000.00 for the season. Please be generous in your donations for this excellent cause.

And if you get a chance thank, Leo Arms, Frank Markowicz, Barb Morris, Synthia Noble, Jerome Rowley, Andy Stevens, Irene van der Hoek, Karin Gerson, Andy Hoefle, Jennie Bohlm, Lisa Diederich, Val Birk, Joyce Semmler, Darlene Obejda, Bruce Swieciki, and Pat Segner!

~Carol Mortensen

Free Movie & Discussion - Friday, May 26th, 7:00 pm

Before the Flood, presented by National Geographic, features Leonardo DiCaprio on a journey as a United Nations Messenger of Peace, traveling to five continents and the Arctic to witness climate change firsthand. He goes on expeditions with scientists uncovering the reality of climate change and meets with political leaders fighting against inaction.

Free coffee, tea, and popcorn
Optional: bring a snack to share, contribute a donation

Click HERE to view the trailer to this intriguing documentary.
Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of our 2017 Fellowship Dinner!
During this month, the final session of Our Whole Lives, the sexual education program for 7th to 9th graders, will be completed. If you see Jodi Libretti or Colin Kirchner, the facilitators of the program, give them a pat on the back and a hearty thank you for a job well done. Their dedication to a program that started in October 2016 and their tireless preparation were outstanding.

We had another lively discussion at April’s UU Gabfest. We talked about how to have a conversation with friends and relatives who might have voted for a different candidate in November. We came up with some useful strategies: for instance, talk from your own point of view by using “I” statements like “I feel this” or “my understanding is this.” No one can disagree with your perception of your feelings. Then follow up with a practice familiar to all UUs – ask questions, and really try to understand where the other person is coming from. Finally, take a stand and get involved, communicate with your representatives, but most of all protect yourself and know your limits. Oh, and remember to come back to your church community for some TLC.

The kids in the elementary RCE program are exploring the 5th principle regarding the democratic process. They were asked, “What would you do if you were President”? 

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**Religious and Character Education**

by Dan Feldt

**Help Spread the Wood Chips! - Saturdays May 6th, 13th, 20th, 9am to noon**

We are looking for volunteers to help spread the woodchips. Wood chips will be spread in the new children’s play area, the gazebo circle and around the patio. Help us make UUCC safer for our children and as attractive as possible for visitors and renters. Shovels, rakes, and wheelbarrows will be available for your use. Please bring work gloves. Refreshments provided. Contact Nancy Irons (708-712-3228) for more information.
Dear Folks,

We initiated our new door prize raffle at April’s Edgar’s Place Coffeehouse show with the wonderful Dana Cooper, and it proved to be a big success. Those of you who were at the show know I was not able to be there because of an important (and joyous!) family event. Special thanks to our friend and another power house talent, Dave Rudolf, for hosting the evening, and as always, thanks to all our volunteers; Dave Bartlett, Darlene Obejda, Elaine Moore, and our newest volunteer, Linda Daniels. I couldn't do it without all your help! And while I'm thanking people, thanks also to the church office administrator Virginia Jackson, who designs these lovely flyers, and to Diane O'Connor, who is in charge of publicity for the church.

Congrats to our lucky door prize winners, and thanks to those generous local merchants who donated:
1) A Beautiful gift basket of food items including two $20 gift certificates donated by Beans and Greens (aka the South Suburban Food Coop) in Homewood (ssfcoop.com) specializing in organic and local food items. Won by Bob Gronko.
2) A One hour massage or other body work donated by John Sparks, co-owner of Insight Awareness in Homewood. (insightawareness.com) A lovely little shop that offers various types of body work, classes, and other programs. Insight Awareness also sells jewelry, incense, books and other gift items. Won by Colin Kirchner.
3) A $20.00 gift certificate from Civilitea Gardens in Homewood (civiliteagardens.com). Civilitea is an awesome tea shop that has over 40 kinds of tea, plus scrumptious home baked goodies, including traditional, as well as vegan and gluten free. They serve lunch and also carry a few cute gift items. Well, some lucky person won that, but we don't seem to know who! If you are reading this and were the winner, let me know!

Coming up:
Speaking of Dave Rudolf, he will be hosting a CD release party at our UUCC Church on Saturday, May 20th, a week after our last Edgar's show with Mark Dvorak and Tom Rasely! This is not an Edgar's affiliated show, but you can be sure I'll be there!! More details to come.

Keep listening, folks!
~Valerie Birk
Dave Rudolf  
**CD Release Concert/Party**  
at UUCC May 20th  
$15 per person

“Dave Rudolf captivates his audience. Anything and everything that happens onstage or offstage during a Rudolf concert becomes fair game for his disarming wit.”

Chicago SunTimes

**More details to come!**

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**Saturday June 3rd – Outing to the National Museum of Mexican Art in Chicago**

Javier Chavira, a member of UUCC, is one of 30+ area artists showcased in “Memoria Presents: An Artistic Journey” currently on display at the National Museum of Mexican Art in Chicago. Join us as a group from UUCC goes downtown to enjoy this exhibit. Exact travel plans will be determined by those who can participate. Please let Nancy Irons (irons.nancy@gmail.com) know if you wish to be part of this outing.

Since opening its doors in 1987, the Museum has showcased 220 exhibitions that exemplify a broad spectrum of artistic expressions from both sides of the Mexico-U.S. border. The contemporary artists now creating artwork in Chicago and vicinity continue to accurately reflect the vibrance and diversity found within the Chicago-Mexican community. Their poetic and political expressions carry on an extensive history of contemplative work and civic dialog in North America. The Museum’s philosophy of a Mexican culture “sin fronteras” (without borders) promotes art as a bridge between communities, while art education expands minds and breaks down barriers, even as it preserves cultural heritage.

These contemporary icon paintings, by Javier Chavira, portray various individuals who have lived as “messengers of compassion.” Each piece bears a sacred heart, and is adorned to represent their divine love for humanity.
**Illinois Does Not Have to be Broke**

Our elected officials could fund a “People and Planet First Budget” for the common good by closing corporate tax loopholes, creating a progressive income tax and enacting the LaSalle Street Tax. The People and Planet First Budget would raise an additional $23 billion per year in revenue from three main actions:

- Closing Corporate Tax Loopholes (2.5 billion)
- Enacting a Graduated Income Tax ($9 billion)
- Passing the LaSalle Street Tax ($12 billion)

The People and Planet First Budget would invest an additional $23 billion annually to:

- Fully fund pre-K through 12 education ($5 billion)
- Provide universal healthcare ($4.5 billion)
- Convert to all green energy over the next 30 years ($3.5 billion)
- Fully fund human services ($3 billion)
- Repair our infrastructure ($3 billion)
- Provide free higher education at Illinois community colleges and state universities ($2.5 billion)
- Increase pension investment ($2 billion)

These investments would create tens of thousands of jobs and improve both the overall economy and the quality of life for all Illinois residents.

See Full Article [Here](#)

I know a little about people and planet first. There will be a march from Chicago to Springfield to raise awareness about the Illinois budget and the burden we are in May 15th to May 30th. This is an organization that looks to make our living space on earth a good one. Alex Muhammad will have given the Adult Forum on the “March to Springfield” by the time you have read this.

I made this connection through Grace Pai in Capa Climate meeting up in Evanston. I am lucky enough to be amongst some very good leaders in the environmental movement. I hope you will consider being a part of this march to help its success.

~Jeff

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**UUANI Unitarian Universalist Advocacy Network of Illinois Action of the Week**

If you are interested in advocating for our UU values in the face of an administration which is pursuing policies contrary to our UU Principles, visit: [http://uu-advocacy-illinois.org](http://uu-advocacy-illinois.org) or [https://www.facebook.com/UUANI](https://www.facebook.com/UUANI)

Each week one problem is targeted and actions are encouraged, usually calling our Senators and Representatives at (202) 224-3121 or at [http://UU-advocacy-illinois.org/take-action/](http://UU-advocacy-illinois.org/take-action/)

You can find previous Actions of the Week - including the recent one on the Affordable Care Act - at [http://uu-advocacy-illinois.org/take-action/](http://uu-advocacy-illinois.org/take-action/)
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.

This month’s Rainbow Cafe meets on May 19th. Movie shown will be “Moonlight.”

The tender, heartbreaking story of a young man's struggle to find himself, told across three defining chapters in his life as he experiences the ecstasy, pain, and beauty of falling in love, while grappling with his own sexuality.

Click here to view the trailer: https://youtu.be/2gZ-Tmxa61g

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 May 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 May 7th. 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 May 21st

The UUCC MEN’S GROUP

Men’s Group meets on May 1st & May 15th at 7pm

For more information contact Colin Kirchner at colinkirchner@gmail.com
Please Check the Lost and Found in the Coat Room
The warmer weather is upon us. There are a number of sweaters, coats and other odds & ends that have been left behind at church. Please check the coatroom for your lost items. Unclaimed items will be donated to an area thrift shop at the end of the month.
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The newsletter deadline is always the 20th of every month.

*You can help save a tree and a stamp by simply picking up your
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