Sunday Worship Schedule
10:00 AM

June 4th
Title: “Religious and Character Education Celebration!”
By the RCE Kids
Listening to the voices of our children.

June 11th
Title: “This Is Us”
By Danielle Nolen-Ragland
A journey to understanding: Danielle will share how UUCC, YRUU, and the UU faith helped her understand herself as a Black feminist lesbian spiritual being, and further, understand the evolution into/of the relationship she has with her wife, her mom (Marilyn Ragland) the world, and herself.

June 18th
Title: "Defenders of Faith and Reason"
By Larry McClellan
UU's and our fellow travelers are called to protect the truth, so how do we do it?

June 25th
Title: "Spirit Of Life"
By Reverend Denise Tracy
The story of the song we sing.

June Upcoming Events

June 4th: The RE Kids lead the Sunday service
June 23rd: Free Movie and Discussion Night “From the Ashes”
June 24th: Summer Solstice Celebration
(More details of each event are included in this newsletter)

The President’s Column by Jerome Rowley

Although summertime is upon us, in some ways it feels like the end of the year for me. This is because the business of the church is done on the basis of a fiscal year which ends in June and starts next month in July. There was an annual business meeting held on May 21st where the members of the new Board of Trustees was voted upon.

It was my first year serving as the President of the Board of Trustees, and July will start the second year of my term. Continuing on the Board will be Jeff Fields (Vice President), Leonard Kirchner (Treasurer), and the regular Board members Kevin Glenz and Shirley McDonald. Richard Oram and Leanne Mull are stepping down from their positions on the Board, and being succeeded by Maria Markowicz and Ralph Mortensen.

Besides looking forward to the new fiscal year, I would also like to take a look back at the previous fiscal year and see what has been accomplished here in the UUCC Park Forest congregation. I will divide this up into four areas:

1) Internal (Building/Grounds)
2) Internal (People)
3) External (Spiritual)
4) External (Social Connections)

NOTE: Forum will not meet during June, July and August
1. **Internal (Building/Grounds)**

There were needed repairs done to the roof and the gathering room was cleaned, something which needed to be done because this is the place where the spiritual elite meet to eat and greet after the service, and the carpet bore the burden of all this activity.

In the new fiscal year, the Board will consider creating a capital fund to pay for a furnace replacement, and we will also consider cleaning the sanctuary, which will involve repair to the floor. Although the furnace functioned well last winter, it is an old furnace and we don’t want to take the chance on it breaking down in the depths of winter.

2. **Internal (People)**

We have had some new people become members of the congregation, such as Elaine Miller, who moved to the area from the East Coast and found our congregation a good fit after her initial visit a few months ago. I would like for the new Board as one of its first tasks to consider redoing a count of how many members we have by contacting those in the directory to make sure those that are there are active members; then we can use this more accurate figure of membership as a benchmark to see how many members we get in the coming year.

The other matter the Board will take up is having each Board member be the liaison for at least one of the committees or programs that are listed in the Directory, such as the Committee on Ministry or the Finance Committee. This will assure that the Board meetings are productive in discussing issues or matters that come up among the members that require either funding or policy decisions. Being a liaison with all of the various groups that the members belong to will also help the Board members realize that the Sunday service is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to member participation. Although Unitarians are often pigeon-holed as intellectuals, we foster not just discussion about spirituality, but the experience of it through various programs of yoga, meditation, Sufi dancing (Dances of Universal Peace), and other forms of exploration. It is my sincere hope to continue these programs and perhaps expand them in the coming year.

3. **External (Spiritual Connections)**

One of the most exciting areas of development in our church is our Children’s Religious and Character Education (RCE) Program led by Melissa Schwartz in conjunction with our adult RCE Program led by Dan Feldt. In the past year, the children in the RCE program have visited a mosque in Frankfort and a Buddhist temple in Chicago. Next year they will visit other spiritual communities and the children will have a more comprehensive picture of the varieties of religious experience in our community. The adult women in our congregation will also have increasing contacts in the coming year with women of the Bridgeview mosque, and I hope other connections to local spiritual communities will grow as well. It is also my hope that we connect with the UU of the Chicago Area, the UU MidAmerica Region, and the UUA General Assembly and use these connections to benefit our local congregation.

4. **External (Social Connections)**

In the past year, there have been several members who have been active in the community either promoting social justice or environmental issues. Although I felt as the President of the Board I could not advocate a particular political party or candidate, I encouraged our members to get active not just in the recent Presidential election, but in any local issues that affect our membership. We hosted at our church a meeting recently of the Village of Park Forest, including a chance for local residents to pose questions to Park Forest officials. I hope to do this in the future to support better communication within our community.

And as far as outside the community is concerned, that is a hope of mine as well to reach out to the various community members as neighbors to help solve issues that affect us all. For example, several members of our Church regularly serve at the local PADS emergency shelter by serving meals once a month to the homeless. Although my work schedule precludes me helping out as I did last year, I fully support this effort and hope that it continues in the coming year as well.

In short, I look for a stronger church within and great connections to the communities we are a part of. I hope to get your support in implementing this vision in the fiscal year ahead!
A clear-eyed and intimate approach to a hot-button topic. From the Ashes captures Americans in communities across the country as they wrestle with the legacy of the coal industry, and what its future should be under the Trump Administration. In the stories spanning from Appalachia to the West’s Powder River Basin, the film goes beyond the rhetoric of the “war on coal” to present compelling and often heartbreaking stories of individuals affected that speak to what’s at stake for our economy, health, and climate. From the Ashes invites audiences to learn more about an industry on the edge through the lived experiences of those most closely affected, to begin to chart a path forward for our energy policy and our country itself.

From the Ashes documentary explores the reality of coal’s role in climate change while offering insight into solutions that could help revive the struggling economies of dying mining towns and still safeguard the environment. For over a century, mining and energy companies have been privatizing coal’s profits while socializing its costs. Coal plant pollution kills 7,500 Americans a year and causes many more serious illnesses.

From the Ashes shows the risks we face as a nation if we continue to rely on coal and examines how Americans in local communities, including in coal country, are helping to lead the transition toward cleaner air and stronger economies.

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

Click HERE to view the trailer to this documentary.
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 church office at 708-481-5339.

Our June Listening Hearts volunteers will be Joyce Semmler and Pat Segner

Summer Solstice Celebration

Great God, Father of the Earth,
Shine down on this, your strongest day.

Join us for a family friendly ritual to welcome Summer!

Saturday, June 24th
Gather 5:30 pm, Ritual 6:00 pm
Potluck to follow. Please bring a dish to share.
$5 Donation Requested.
Presented by Four Winds CUUPs
(Covenant of UU Pagans)
Please plan to attend church on June 4. Our Religious and Character Education kids will be leading the service. They are putting together a wonderful program while they finish up their study of Buddhism. They’re attending a Buddhist service on May 28. We’ll be dedicating our enchanted forest play set after the service. Please join us if you can.

On May 27th, our youth cooked brunch at Ronald McDonald House in Hyde Park. The menu sounds delicious, including quiche, waffles, bacon, bagels and fruit salad. I’ll be posting pictures of the event in the gathering room.

Some of our talented moms, Angela Denk, Giggy Sackberger Wagner, and Jennie Rose Lake, led the Mother’s Day service. There were plenty of laughs and a few tears.
Our last Edgar’s Place Coffeehouse event for the season was held on May 13th. Performing that night was Mark Dvorak with Tom Rasely. Congrats to our lucky door prize winners! Thanks to those generous local merchants who donated!

1) A Danny Fox CD donated by Danny Fox: Winner—Deann Wilson

2) A “Seek Balance” Sacred Mandala Mug designed and donated by Diane O’Connor along with a Starbucks’ gift certificate donated by Edgar’s Place Coffee House: Winner—Bob Rapacki

3) A Manicure/pedicure gift certificate donated by Classy Nails and Spa in Tinley Park: Winner—Ron Wojcik

4) A SongSisters CD and admission for 2 to the Edgar’s opening show on October 14th with the SongSisters donated by the group SongSisters and Edgar’s Place Coffee House: Winner Glenn Kersten

5) Earrings donated by Kay Jewelers: Winner—Rich Moore

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Edgar’s Place Coffeehouse
2017-2018 schedule:

October 14th: SongSisters

November 11th: Michael Johnathan

December 9th: Lee Murdock and Blue Horizon

January 13th: Joe Jencks

February 10th: Dave Rudolf

March 10th: Patty Stevenson and Craig Siemsen

April 14th: Tom Nielsen

May 12th: Laura Joy and Amelia Stamsta
What kind of world do we want to live in, in the future? Do you want a future without pollution? Would you like to save money on health costs? Would you like lower energy costs? Would you like the kind of job that can’t go overseas? (For more information, click on the image to the right).

- 39% reduction in demand for power in the United States.
- Using renewable electricity and improving energy efficiency reduces overall demand.
- Illinois would use 38% less electricity, with cost savings of $251/year by 2050.
- $10,109 savings per person, per year United States.
- Clean energy saves money on fuel costs and reduces health care costs.
- Just the electric car alone uses less energy than gas and uses less money to go the same distance. Avoided mortality and illness costs would be $23.7 billion per year for Illinois.
- 4.1 million jobs created United States.
- Jobs where a person is employed for 40 consecutive years would emerge in construction and operations.
- For Illinois there would be about 192,000 jobs created building a better Illinois.
- 45,761 air pollution deaths avoided every year United States.
- A 100% renewable energy plan pays for itself in just three years from air pollution and climate cost savings alone.
- Air pollution deaths avoided every year for Illinois. 3150

Would you like to live in this kind of world?

**UUCC Freecycle:** Repurposing one person’s trash into another person’s treasure

If you are interested in these FREE items, or if you have items you would like us to post, contact Diane at 708-758-5715 diane.oconnor@att.net.

- 2 Gallon Liquid Cooler
- Personal Cooler 11” x 11” x 9”
- Vintage Spalding Women’s Golf Shoes 7 1/2 B
- Second Coming of Christ Vol 1 & 2 - The Resurrection of the Christ Within You by Paramahansa Yogananda.

Green Sanctuary Committee - Jeff Green
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.
This month’s Rainbow Café meets on June 16th. Movie shown will be “Pride”
PRIDE is inspired by an extraordinary true story. It's the summer of 1984, Margaret Thatcher is in power and the National Union of Mineworkers is on strike, prompting a London-based group of gay and lesbian activists to raise money to support the strikers' families. Initially rebuffed by the Union, the group identifies a tiny mining village in Wales and sets off to make their donation in person. As the strike drags on, the two groups discover that standing together makes for the strongest union of all.

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

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 June 18th

Medical Cannabis Education Association meets every month on the First Sunday at Noon.
MCEA meets on June 4th
MCEA Brittany Kim Director of Patient Outreach from Windy City Cannabis will discuss the Illinois Cannabis Program.

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.

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 UUCC MEN’S GROUP
Men’s Group meets at 7pm on June 12th and 26th.
For more information contact Colin Kirchner at colinkirchner@gmail.com
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Have any extra garden seeds? Don’t just leave it in the package on a shelf in your garage. Most seed will survive a season or more if kept in a tightly closed glass jar. You can help keep those seeds dry by folding up some milk powder inside a small square of paper towel and including it in the jar.
Church Information
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(Please contact Diane for anything related to the newsletter).
The 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