Join us at our Community Sunday Potluck on January 6th following the service! Please feel free to bring a dish to share if you are able.

Sunday Worship Service at 10:00am
Welcome Back!
Our services are being held at
The Unitarian Universalist Church
70 Sycamore Drive, Park Forest
708-481-5339

January 6th
Title: New Lessons from an Old Book
By Emily Bushong
A reinterpretation of Creation in Genesis

January 13th
Title: Bless This House
By Reverend Denise Tracy
Returning to UUCCPF’s building is an important passage. We will look at the story of the church and pause to celebrate.

January 20th
Title: Ambient Church - Now Is The Time
By Dennis Fisher
Words are best used to tell our stories and to lift our spirits. Of late words have been weaponized, their meanings discarded for self-serving agendas. In response we will have a sermon with less emphasis on words, more emphasis on ambience. As my playwriting guru once told me, writers shouldn't use so many words. They should just use the good ones. This sermon will be limited to the good words.

January 27th
Title: Faith: My Search For Unicorns
By Colin Kirchner
A UU’s journey to define faith. I will share stories of my faith journey, cultivating strength and determination in a world filled with chaos.

Upcoming Dates
January 1st: New Years Day Party
January 27th: Workshop on Death and Dying (Forum)
(see more information about these 2 events in this newsletter)

April 6th: Fellowship Dinner
April 7th: Pledge Sunday
May 26th: Annual Meeting

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. Two people are “on duty” each month, but any of the members may be contacted as needed. “On Duty” Listening Hearts wear special colorful name tags. 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.

The Listening Hearts Team Members are
Darlene Ojejda, Barb Anderson Morris, Bev Feldt, Dick Lewis, Pat Segner, Colin Kirchner, Joyce Semmler, Chief (Bob Jensen), Monica Regan, Jodi Libretti, Char Pierce.

The Listening Hearts volunteers for the month of January will be Joyce Semmler and Jodi Libretti.
By the time you see this Newsletter, we will be making our move back to our old church building on Sycamore Drive. There is a lot to do during the transition, so I wanted to tell you what the Board has in store during this coming month.

1. **Sort out contents stored during the repair/restoration of the church.**
The repair and restoration of the church should be repaired by the time of the first service on Sunday, January 6th. However, although the contents have been moved back to the church, not all the boxes have been processed, which means going through them to see if any items are ones which can be discarded, and then putting the items we are going to retain back where they belong. Any help you can give would be appreciated!

2. **Make a list of any items still required, starting with those needed for Sunday service.**
For those directly involved with preparing for Sunday service, and for those directly involved with the running of the Religious Character and Education (RCE) program, let the Board know any items that are needed to put on the worship service or the RCE program. We will authorize them as soon as possible.

3. **Contact the members and friends of the church to let them know we are once again open for worship in the old building.**
There are some people in the congregation who have not been able to attend our services in the past month due to mobility issues. We will contact them and invite them, as well as the other members and friends, back to the old church, for a celebration on a Sunday around February 14th (Valentine’s Day), the date in 2018 when the flooding occurred.

4. **Plan on having an open house for the neighborhood at least some time later in the Spring.**
The internal celebration mentioned above is basically for members and friends of the church. The Committee on Ministry suggested having some sort of open house for the neighborhood at large, and we on the Board will work towards making this idea a reality. It would be sometime in March or afterwards, after the weather looks like it is heading into Spring.

These four steps will put us back on a firm footing and ensure that 2019 will make enough progress to make up for the “lost year” of 2018.

The biggest lesson I have learned in the past year is that the congregation is more than the church building and all the physical infrastructure of where we worship. It is also, and perhaps more importantly, a product of the interactions of members and friends of the church, whose lively presence was undiminished by the physical challenges we faced. My gratitude goes out finally to Trinity Lutheran Church, for giving us “room in the inn” while we faced the re-birth of our church.

**Best to all of you in the coming year 2019!**
January Forum

January 6th  Community Sunday Potluck

January 13th  UU Gabfest - 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.

January 20th  Waking Up White Book Discussion with Julie Haverty, Nancy Frazier & Marilyn Ragland
Join us for an ongoing monthly discussion group exploring racism. Please prepare by reading the book, Waking Up White by Debby Irving. This book provides a good starting place for understanding systemic racism and white privilege in our country. Loaner copies are available through UUCC.

January 27th  Preparing for the Inevitable: A Workshop on Death and Dying with Jodi Libretti and the Listening Hearts.
Have you thought about how you want to die? Do you have a loved one you'd like to have this conversation with? Many of us put off or avoid planning for death, but preparation can help assure that the end-of-life experience is what we want.

Part 1 of 4 - Getting Oriented: What are the end-of-life issues that matter?

Please see or call Jodi Libretti for more information (312-371-4713) and to sign up so that we can be sure to have enough Five Wishes booklets.

Preparing for the Inevitable: A Workshop on Death and Dying

The Listening Hearts will offer a 4-session workshop to address important topics related to preparing for the end of life. Please see or call Jodi Libretti for more information (312-371-4713) and to sign up so that we can be sure to have enough Five Wishes booklets.

January 27th  – Getting Oriented: What are the end-of-life issues that matter?

February 24th  – The Five Wishes: Participants will receive an advance-planning document to complete outside of the session. We will address key points about each wish.

March 31st  – Hospice Care: What is it? Who is eligible? Why is it beneficial?

April 28th  – After the last breath: Handling the body, arranging for services, dealing with grief and loss.

The Positive Power of Group Hugs (from the UU World Magazine)

Rafael Cantón is a maestro of group hugs. Every Sunday, this ebullient 96-year-old humanist elevates spirits at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura, California. At first, people giggle self-consciously as they gather together, shoulder to shoulder. Then they engage in a big, yawning embrace that leaves ripples of joy in its wake. Cantón—who has been practicing psychiatry for more than sixty years—sets up community huddles as a sort of mental and social elixir.

“My group hugs invite any passerby to join,” he says. “It is inclusive. It helps people who may not know each other to start a conversation. It also intensifies the bonds between people who are friends already.” He points out that the word “religion” comes from the Latin, and it means “religation” or “the action of binding together again.” To read entire article, click HERE.
FLOOD UPDATE  By Nancy Irons

Happy Holidays! The Move is Upon Us!

So, at this frantic time of year, the reconstruction at UUCC is nearly complete. There are minor touch-ups to take care of and our contents have been returned to the building. We still have much to do, including cleaning, unpacking, sorting and organizing all of our contents. Hopefully, great progress will be made on that between Christmas and New Year! Please sign-up on the sheet at the Greeter’s table or contact the office (708-481-5339) if you can help.

As we unpack and organize things, we are discovering a number of items that were discarded and not listed on the cleanup contractor’s discard list. In particular, all of our area rugs, pads and floor mats were discarded, but not included in the calculations for the replacement value of our contents. We are currently negotiating (arguing) with the insurance company over this loss. As we purchase replacement items we could use help with transportation. Is there anyone out there with an SUV or truck who would be willing to provide transportation?

While there is still much to be done, thanks go out to all of the volunteers who have already helped with this project. The Flood Ad Hoc Committee, including Nancy Irons, Virginia Jackson, Bruce Sweiciki, John Kasang and Marilyn Ragland have been consulted repeatedly on many decisions. Giggy Wagner and the RCE parents have already made progress unpacking and sorting all of the RCE materials. Javier Chavira has agreed to design a mural for the walls in classroom 2. Jeff Green and his brother will be installing new LED lighting in classroom 1 over the holidays. Joyce Semmler has been sorting and organizing archival materials. Special thanks go to Virginia Jackson, who has been a real trooper, fielding phone calls at all hours and providing access to the building to contractors of all types. We also extend extra special thanks to the congregation at Trinity Lutheran Church for allowing us to use their space as a temporary home. They have truly been a port in the storm for us. Blessings to you all!

Our first service back at UUCC will be held on January 6th.

Reverend Denise Tracy with John Ray and Laurel Kasang at our Christmas Eve service at Trinity Lutheran Church.
Dr. Gloria Latimore Peace is the Host and Producer of The H3O Television program which airs in the Chicago Metropolitan area on Chicago Access Network Television (CAN-TV) Channel 19.

The H3O Show is telecast every Friday from 8:30PM-9:30PM. It repeats on Sundays from 3:30PM-4:30PM. Our program offers interviews with outstanding leaders in the areas of History, Culture, Health, Nutrition and Spirituality.

**The January 2019 Schedule follows:**

- **January 4th** - "Know Thy Addiction, Know Thyself" featuring Jamelia R. Hand and Dr. Adeyemi Fatoki
- **January 11th and 13th** - “And Justice For All?” featuring Atty. James "Jack" Childs and Atty. Robert Willis
- **January 18th and 20th** - "Kuumba: The Principle of Creativity” featuring Steve Cobb and Rasuli Pratt
- **January 25th and 27th** - "Healing Arts: Yoga” featuring Dr. Nadine Kelly

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**A Little Humor**

*And God Separated the Light from the Dark...*

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**Welcome in the New Year!**

**DATE:** January 1st, 2019

**Trinity Lutheran Church**  2 - 6 PM

All UUCC members and friends are invited to A New Year’s Party!

Join us for as little or long as you like

Bring a Pot Luck dish

Optional:

- Bring games to play
- Bring music CDs to listen to
- Perform music yourself!
- Story telling (life stories)
- Help plan conversation question starters
- Plan children’s activities or other activities
- Help supervise children
- Help set up and/or clean up

**CONTACT DARLENE OBEJDA  708-212-4452**

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**Family Trip To Enlightenment**

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**2019 HAPPY NEW YEAR!**
Virginia Jackson (UUCC Office Admin.) and I shop at the Methodist Thrift Store in Crete (our way of supporting the other Faith Organizations). That's where I heard the happy news that we will be back in our Home Church by January 6th! There is a sign-up sheet to help unpack, re-organize and transport boxes. Or call the office at 708-481-5339.

Thanks to Chris Ussery for his creative, intuitive piano playing at Sunday services. Chris played Schroeder's piece from "A Charlie Brown Christmas" at our Children's Service.

Giggy Wagner facilitated a beautiful RCE Kids Celebration. Luke played the piano, Gia read the Children's Story, Paloma played her violin, Mia shared a drawing as did JJ, and Delilah danced ballet without music! What brave and talented children we have. One little artist (whose name I don't know) shared her picture. Sarah Chavira designed Christmas present backs for the children's drawings. And all the children under Giggy's guidance told their Christmas wishes. Both Carol Mortensen and I were laughing with joy watching the service. Thanks for the Holiday Cheer.

A Memorial lunch was held for Uncle Ted Morrison by his nephews, Keith and Kevin. It was catered fried chicken and sides. The service was held at Trinity Lutheran. I brought a rock that Ted had given me from his garden. Jo Jo Martin (who provided Ted with Meals on Wheels) spoke as did friends, Garden Club members, and former students. Ted taught at Morgan Park Academy, Homewood and Park Forest.

Congrats to Joyce Semmler who has been asked to be a Board Member at Izaak Walton.

The Listening Hearts will do a Forum in February on the Five Wishes. Jodi Libretti and Colin Kirchner came up with the idea. Let Jodi know if you will need a pamphlet so we have enough. The Five Wishes is a legal document for final wishes.

Dave Bartlett and Darlene Obejda visited Doris Knight at her facility and Elvis was visiting too!
March 9th: Triflemore

Triflemore is a transatlantic folk duo, including one from small-town America and the other from the northernmost islands of Scotland, creating progressive folk with flavours of vintage British Isles folk baroque and Celtic. Analog singer-songwriters dedicated to crafting a crisp, elegant interpretation of lo-fi simplicity, they present their own contemplative poetry and melodies, whilst giving a nod to more formal, traditional folk stylings.

April 13th: Dave Rudolf & Diana Laffey and Friends

Dave Rudolf is one of the most versatile and entertaining performers on the folk scene today. Whether he is putting his own spin on a beloved cover or singing one of his own well crafted songs, be it hilarious or poignant, Dave never fails to captivate and engage his audiences.

Diana has the incredible ability to create an environment filled with music, singing, dancing, celebrating where you almost lose yourself for a little while.

THIS CONCERT IS A CD RELEASE SHOW!

May 11th: David Massengill

David’s songs have been covered and recorded by Joan Baez, The Roches, Lucy Kaplansky, Tom Russell, Nanci Griffith and his mentor, Dave Van Ronk, who said David “took the dull out of dulcimer!” Notes Music Boulevard, “That David made the lap dulcimer his instrument of choice tells us a lot about the soft-spoken native of eastern Tennessee. He accompanies his performance with an instrument indelibly Appalachian, yet conquers even the most urban of musical communities. He does it without losing that remarkable gift for true storytelling.”

All shows are scheduled to begin at 7:30pm.

Edgar’s Place Coffeehouse meets at the Unitarian Universalist Church

70 Sycamore Drive, Park Forest, IL 60466  708-481-5339  uuccpf.org
Religious and Character Education
by Dan Feldt

THE RCE FABULOUS TALENT EXTRAVAGANZA

A HUGE thank you goes out to Jeremy Libretti - Rivers for taking such wonderful pictures of our Church’s restoration. They were recently displayed at Trinity Lutheran Church.
In this unusual political time, I would expect not much progress on the political front from this administration on climate issues. But during the last election and successes of the midterm a new movement is coming about from the youthful energy coming into politics. It’s called the Green New Deal. It just popped up out of nowhere with quite a bit of pressure on the Democratic Party. Going up against fossil fuels politically is a tough one. Nevertheless the Green New Deal (GND) persisted. Where have we heard that one before?

See entire article [HERE](#).

The three core principles of the GND: Decarbonization, Jobs, and Justice

1) **The plan must decarbonize the economy**

The young people who will have to live with the effects of climate change want a plan that begins with what is necessary rather than what is deemed politically possible. “We want the policy to match the findings in the IPCC report — to match the scale of the problem,” says Waleed Shahid of Justice Democrats. Or as Gunn-Wright puts it, “We need to go all the way.”

2) **The plan must include a federal jobs guarantee and large-scale public investments**

Again, the GND is not just climate policy. It’s about transforming the economy, lifting up the poor and middle class, and creating a more muscular, active public sector.

3) **The plan must include a just transition**

Several people I talked to stressed that they want to avoid the mistakes of the original New Deal, many elements of which entrenched or exacerbated racial inequalities. Everyone wants to make sure that the plan includes protections for those hardest hit by historical discrimination and those set to suffer most from the effects of climate change — in Ocasio-Cortez’s document, “low-income communities, communities of color, indigenous communities, [and] the front-line communities most affected by climate change, pollution, and other environmental harm.”

We are in challenging times to create a world that fits into earth’s climate. Here we have a really bold plan to do just that. With the present politics, get ready to see a lot of discussion and disagreement around this idea. The first challenge is the Democratic Party itself. Courage to change is the first order of business and the GND supporters have plenty of it. Let’s all participate in this grand new idea.

Happy holidays everyone. Look forward to seeing everyone in our newly renovated church.

*Love, Jeff*
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. Doors open at approximately 6:30pm and the movie starts at 7pm.

Movie: “RENT” Filmed Live on Broadway (The Final Performance)

After winning four Tony Awards and the Pulitzer Prize, Jonathan Larson’s powerhouse musical tour de force entered the record books as the seventh-longest-running show in all Broadway history. In the unforgettable theatrical experience - take an intimate journey through a single year in the lives of a small circle of friends and artists living their dreams, battling their demons and celebrating life on the streets of New York City’s East Village. Meet would-be filmmaker Mark, sweet transvestite Angel, exotic dancer Mimi and a host of other unforgettable characters as they confront the challenges of poverty, mortality and...paying the Rent.

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. Next DUP: January 20th

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. Call (708) 755-3577 for information

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

For more information contact Colin Kirchner at colinkirchner@gmail.com or contact Virginia at the church office. 708-481-5339

Dream Exploration Group

1st Saturday of the month at 10am in Gathering Room. Limited to 10. Contact Geri to register at 312-813-4411 or gkbiamonte@yahoo.com.

Medical Cannabis Education Association

MCEA information can be received by emailing Joy Grainge at joygrainge@me.com

Dream Exploration Group
Contact Geri for info on where to meet
Now that we are returning to our home, please contact your event facilitator to confirm the location of your event before arriving. See list of facilitators below.

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**Event Facilitators**

- **Medical Cannabis:** Joy Grainge 708-491-7593 joygrainge@me.com
- **Family First Friday:** Dan Feldt 708-212-3637 ddfeldt@gmail.com
- **Yoga:** Karen Nielsen 708-755-3577 shanti-one@comcast.net
- **Men’s Group:** Colin Kirchner 708-497-0293 colinkirchner@gmail.com
- **Dances of Universal Peace:** Pat Segner 708-748-2217 segnerpatricia@yahoo.com
- **Rainbow Café:** Charles Barnett 708-843-2005 chazbarnett@yahoo.com
- **Dream Group:** Geri Biamonte 312–813-4411 gkbiamonte@yahoo.com
- **Forum:** Nancy Irons 708-712-3228 irons.nancy@gmail.com
- **Movie Night:** Currently seeking a new facilitator
- **Edgar’s Place:** Valerie Birk 708-704-0590 valeriebirk@gmail.com
Church Information
70 Sycamore Drive
Park Forest, IL 60466
Office Phone: 708-481-5339
E-Mail: churchadmin@uuccpf.org
Website: www.uuccpf.org

This newsletter is designed, edited and published by Diane O'Connor
diane.oconnor@att.net
708-758-5715
(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.