Sunday Worship Service at 10:00am
The Unitarian Universalist Church
70 Sycamore Drive, Park Forest
708-481-5339

May 5th
Title "True Love"
By Reverend Denise Tracy
What makes love true? How do we know if it is?
At the end of this service we will have the chance to be the community that witnesses Pat and Fred Segner's 65th wedding anniversary!!!

May 12th
Title “Forgiveness and Unconditional Love”
By Eve Gomez
How can we forgive and continue to love a person?

May 19th
Title “Physician, Heal Thyself”
By Reverend Henrietta Byrd
Reverend Byrd takes a look into our individual responsibilities in healing our bodies mind, soul and Spirit. The Fellowship Brunch / Building Rededication / Annual Meeting will follow this service.

May 26th
Title “Atheists in Foxholes: Prayer With or Without God”
By Jennifer Cotrill
This sermon will assert that the impulse to pray is an innate human inclination, regardless of whether we believe in a God to pray to. Several traditional attitudes of prayer will be reexamined and redefined from what may be playfully called a “sacred humanist” perspective.

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. The Listening Hearts volunteers for the month of May will be:

Pat Segner and Monica Regan

Highlights
May 11th: Edgar’s Place Proudly Presents David Massengill
May 17th: Rainbow Café shows the movie “Bohemian Rhapsody”
May 19th: Fellowship Brunch (following the Sunday service)
Annual Meeting (following The Fellowship Brunch and Building Rededication)
May 24th: Movie and Discussion Night Returns

fellowship Brunch & Building Rededication
Join us on May 19th following Sunday Service and prior to the Annual Meeting.
The Fellowship Brunch & Building Rededication, will be held on Sunday May 19th, following the Sunday service and prior to the Annual Meeting. Brunch Strata (egg & cheese & bread) casseroles will be provided. Please sign-up in the Gathering Room to bring fruit, juice, salads, sides or desserts. Ten dollar donation suggested.
For more information, please contact Nancy Irons (irons.nancy@gmail.com)
President’s Column by Jerome Rowley

We have come out of the activities for Earth Week 2019 in Park Forest, and I wanted to write about how Unitarian-Universalism is particularly well suited as a religion to be able to take in an environmental perspective.

We can talk about the stages of the religion using the values of that religion as we have seen before in Spiral Dynamics which assigned the stages of an individual or portion of society various colors as a way of indexing these values. But another way is to talk about the moral stage of religion using the classification of how large the circle of concern is for the people who believe in that religion.

Let’s take a religion at stage 1, where the circle of concern is only for the individual him- or herself. In the primal cultures of the world, shamans represent the religious leaders of this stage of religion. When they go into a trance, they don’t get in touch with gods of a particular religious mythology; they get in touch with powers that represent their own individual, familiar guides. In the present day, you only find a stage 1 religion in cults.

A religion at stage 2 enlarges the circle of concern to include a particular group. The Abrahamic faiths (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam) are at this level, because there is a group that is favored by the deity, and a group that is rejected. The commandment “thou shalt not kill” is, in reality, only meant for people of the in-group. And this is the limitation of these religions, because the “shadow” of loving people in your own group is that of fearing or even hating those who are not in your group. Now Jesus himself talked about having love for one’s enemies, so he had a vision that went beyond to stage 3, where the circle of concern includes all the people of the world. It’s too bad that many of those who follow the religion founded in his name don’t share that same vision.

Universalism came and said that if God loves all his creation, then everybody is “saved” and eternal damnation is not visited on those whom we consider not part of our group. For those who heard Denise Tracy’s sermon on universalism, you may remember her famous quote “Give them not hell, but hope and courage.” The sixth principle of Unitarian-Universalism is “The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.” This is definitely an expression of a world-centric religion rather than an ethnocentric religion (stage 2) or an ego-centric religion (stage 1).

Well, the circle of concern is everybody in the world in a stage 3 religion, what would a stage 4 religion be? Well, if you widen your concern not just to everybody in the world but to the world itself, then you get a religion that has environmentalism at its heart. This is borne out in the seventh principle, “Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.” This definitely includes the entire planet and not just the people in it. And that is what is celebrated as part of Earth Week. I’m happy to say that our Unitarian-Universalist church participated in those activities, and this perspective is going to be very important in the upcoming election cycle, as people search for candidates who will support platforms that take actions to protect our planet from the ravages of climate change.

In the end, these stages of religion don’t have to be in conflict. You can simultaneously be concerned about yourself, the group you belong to, the people of the world, and the world or planet itself. That’s why the issue of climate change is important, because if the climate changes, it will affect all of those levels simultaneously. That means when you are discussing this issue with people at different stages of religious development from a moral perspective, you can pick the level of concern that they are at and show how protecting the planet will be important no matter what level they are at. So all religion’s a stage, but no matter what stage you’re at, you’re an important player!
**May Forum**

**May 5th**  
No Forum: Community Potluck

**May 12th**  
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.

**May 19th**  
No Forum: Fellowship Brunch / Building Rededication / Annual Meeting

Forum will not meet May 26th or for the duration of the summer; it will resume in the Fall. If you have suggestions for speakers or topics, please contact Nancy.  
lirs.nancy@gmail.com

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**LockBox Code to be Changed - Finally!**

The lockbox code will be changed on April 30th. We do not expect any more contractors to need ongoing access to our building.

If you are a Board Member or Coordinator of a group that meets at UUCC or have previously had access to the lockbox code, please be in touch with the office (churchadmin@uuccpf.org or 708-481-5993) to get the new combination.

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Together Park Forest is hosting a Western Ave cleanup day on May 4 from 9am till noon. If you are interested, please join us. We are meeting at the corner of North Avenue and Western and moving south. Please see Beccie Bruckner for more details.

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**Movie Night is Returning May 24th at 7PM**

(2008)--National Geographic Special narrated by Alec Baldwin.

*SIX DEGREES COULD CHANGE THE WORLD*

National Geographic: Six Degrees Could Change the World is a methodical yet scary prediction of each increasing degree's effect on our planet. Simply navigating the Scene Selection Menu is astonishing:

Our World + One Degree, Our World + two Degrees...all the way to a horrific six degrees. narrated by Alec Baldwin, the theme is that something big is happening. With every degree of global warming, irreparable damage occurs - damage that could not only ruin our environment, but the social structures that keep people sane.

Snacks and beverages included. Donations welcomed. Join us for a discussion after film. Click [HERE](#) to view trailer.
The Group Birthday party, facilitated by Lenore Rendina was so much fun. The Committee on Ministry will do another one for those persons born from May to August. We'll probably stage it on a Saturday afternoon in the Summer. Everyone is invited. The purpose is to have fun. People who play together, stay together.

UUCC had an Art Show at our 1st Sunday service in April. We have so many talented members. Jojo Martin was one of the contributors of artwork. Also, Sarah Chavira displayed one of her paintings and Paloma Chavira displayed her work of art.

Connections Covenant group facilitated by Irene van der Hoek and JoAnn Franczek will meet on Wednesday afternoons, May 8th and 22nd from 1 to 2:30. Family stories is the topic. This is a new, social group (men and women) that meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday every month to get to know each other better. Everyone is welcome.

Thanks to Nancy Frazier, Julie Haverty and Marilyn for the "Waking Up White" discussion groups. They were very well attended.

Richard Oram gave a very informative Forum on Hospice Care. The final session on Estate Planning was April 28th. Thanks to Jodi Librettii and the Listening Hearts Team for the four part "Final Legacy" sessions.

Continued
There will be a CAUUC Conference on Saturday, May 18th at Unity Temple. The flyer should be on the bulletin board.

Salon Artists in downtown Park Forest had a show of Art made from "dumpster diving". Here's a pic of Sherri Haase's Owl and Andy Stevens' Skull.

Thorn Creek Audubon's annual bird count will take place on May 4th. Teams of birders will go out into the field to tally species and numbers of birds seen. Other birders will be watching their feeders and all collected data will go to Al at woodduck_1999@yahoo.com.

Tom Neilson and Lynn Waldron gave a beautiful concert at UUCC on April 14th while it snowed 4 inches in the background. Thanks to Dave Bartlett for the organization and publicity for Earth Week.

Prayers for Living at Peace with our Environment was held at St Irenaeus Garden. Pat Segner lead the Dances of Universal Peace. Nancy Irons opened the Circle. Clergy from all faiths were there as well as the PF Environmental Commissioners. On Wednesday, May 1st at 7PM, Park Forest People of Faith will meet at Faith Church. Each month, a different church will host a Peace Gathering.

Dave Rudolf, Diana Laffey (and friends) put on a great show at the April 13th Edgar’s Place Coffeehouse.
FLOOD UPDATE
By Nancy Irons

Well, this may be my final Flood Update. We are back in the building with new floors, new paint and quite a lot of new furnishings. We still need to put some things away, and organize other things, but progress is being made. Thank you again to everyone who has helped with the transition back into our building!!

Unfortunately, we are still wrangling with the insurance company and the contractor over the final financial settlement. We hope this will be resolved shortly, but we have been saying that for quite some time now. At this point, the building reconstruction should probably be considered finished. Anything not yet done, probably won’t be done by the contractor. There are a few things that we should take care of ourselves, but generally please consider this project to be finished. Thank you all for your patience with this long drawn out process!

UUCC Online Sermons

Did you know that (thanks to Chris Ussery) you can listen to some of our past and current sermons? Use this link to listen to our most current sermons:

https://soundcloud.com/user-561635275/sets/uucc-park-forest-sermons-1

Or click HERE.

Users can still explore all the sermons, but this link will take you to the most recent ones first. To listen to many of our past sermons, use this link.

http://www.uuccpf.org/recordings-of-our-sunday-services/

Or click HERE.

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 May 2019 Schedule follows:

May 3rd & May 5th - "Caught in the Act" featuring Kamm Howard
May 10th & May 12th - "What Shall We Tell Our Children Who Are Sons?” featuring Ancestor Kwesi Ronald Harris and Useni Eugene Perkins
March 17th and 19th - "Motherwit: What Shall We Tell Our Daughters?” featuring Dr. Asantewaa Oppong Wadie and Atty. Marian Perkins
May 24th & May 26th - "What Shall We Tell Our Children Who Are Sons?” featuring Ancestor Kwesi Ronald Harris and Useni Eugene Perkins
May 31st and June 2nd - "Motherwit: What Shall We Tell our Daughters?” featuring Dr. Asnatewaa Oppong Wadie and Atty. Marian Perkins
Edgar’s Place Coffeehouse Proudly Presents

David Massengill

May 11th at 7:30pm

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.”

Admission is $15 at the door. Cash only please.

To view David on Youtube, click HERE. For more info about David, click HERE.

CONNECTIONS

The Connections Small Group Ministry is off to a great start! Our Connections group seeks to provide opportunities for spiritual growth and community building, by strengthening relationships. Small Group Ministry provides ways to live out our Unitarian Universalist principles and to strengthen the wider community through service projects.

Of the 20 people who registered, 16 were able to come to the first meeting. We went over the format and guidelines and chose the topics for upcoming meetings. The topic for the next meeting will continue to be Family Stories/Family of Origin.

The group decided to meet the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month, from 1-2:30 pm at church.

Come join us! For more info, contact:

JoAnn Franczek 219/629-0815
Irene vanderHoek 708/305-4913 tulip51girl@gmail.com

More than twenty gathered together for PFPF’s Earth Week prayer service on Wednesday, April 17th. Thanks to one and all. (In the photo: Rev. Johnnette Shane of Holy Family Episcopal Church, our own Nancy Irons of the Unitarian Universalist Community Church, and Nick Battaglia of St. Irenaeus Roman Catholic Church.)
We had a wonderful time at our UUCC Seder on April 20. One of the elements of the celebration is the Seder plate, a collection of foods that symbolize important ideas of Passover, the Exodus story.

Matzah (unleavened bread) symbolizes the haste with which the Israelites left slavery. They didn’t have time to let the bread rise! At the Seder, everyone shares the matzoh to celebrate the hope we share for a world of peace and freedom.

Charoses is a mixture of chopped apples, wine and nuts. It is a symbol of the mortar and bricks of the temples and palaces the Jews were forced to build in Egypt. Charoses also represents the sweetness of life, even in sorrow.

Maror (bitter herbs) stands for the bitterness of enslavement. We eat it with charoses and matzah to remember that in life, the bitter and the sweet both have a part.

Baytsa (roasted egg) symbolizes spring, when plants are growing and baby animals are being born. Eggs have been symbols of life’s renewal in many faiths throughout history. The egg is a symbol of our potential in life. Just as an egg needs warmth and love and security to hatch, we need all of these things to grow as well.

Karpas, a green vegetable, also symbolizes spring and new growth.

Zeroa, a lamb or chicken bone, reminds us of the first celebration of Passover, when Jewish families roasted a lamb and ate it with matzah. The blood of the lamb was used to mark the doors of the Jewish slaves’ homes so that punishments intended for Pharaoh would “pass over”.

Tappuz, an orange, is a recent addition to the Seder plate, to honor women in Judaism. In the 1970’s, the first women were ordained as Rabbis. According to one story, during a speech by a Jewish scholar named Dr. Susannah Heschel, a man in the audience yelled out, “A woman belongs on the bimah (pulpit) as much as an orange belongs on the Seder plate!” A new tradition was born. With our orange, we honor the religious and spiritual contributions of women throughout all of time.
How Wind and Solar Became America’s Cheapest Energy Source

We are at the beginning of one of the greatest changes taking place in human history. The world is getting ready to invest in the cleanest energy available on earth. The beauty of it is that it’s getting cheaper by the year. This will only accelerate the growth even faster. Read full article HERE.

The price of renewable energy has been dropping exponentially over the past decade—and shows no sign of reversing.

In most of the U.S., it's now become cheaper to build a new solar or wind farm than to keep an existing coal plant running.

Part of the reason is better technology—solar panels and wind turbines have gotten more effective at generating power.

Economies of scale help, too: "When renewables get cheaper, we buy more, and then they get even cheaper and we buy even more," one expert said.

The auto industry will go through very rapid change in the next few years. People have voted with their dollars that battery electric vehicles are acceptable.

If you look back at the history of the UU church in Park Forest, Fenn Taylor started the “Care for the Earth” series several years ago. We discussed global warming then in its wide aspects educating our congregation on what it is. Back when Dick Humbert was in charge of adult forum before service, Edgar Peara was Minister, I gave a slide show on global warming by the group Union of Concerned Scientists. That was in the late 1990’s. I’ll have to admit to not really understanding the science of the slides back then.

At the UU in Berrien County, there was a Thursday night environmental movie by the Green Sanctuary leader there. There were two Tesla electric autos in the parking lot that night. Mine and another person’s. UU’s are seeing the need to change and one by one, the change is coming.

The emerging market—”Are Regulators Hindering EV Acceleration” (see full article HERE).

"The auto industry will change more in the next 5 years than it has in the last 50," General Motors Chair and CEO Mary Barra wrote in the most recent GM annual report.

The numbers agree with Barra. In 2017, annual global sales of EVs passed 1 million and could reach 4.5 million, 5% of the global market, by 2020, according to business consultant McKinsey. That will grow to 11 million in 2025 and 30 million in 2030, Bloomberg New Energy Finance forecasts.

This is an exciting time we are in, I look forward to seeing future changes that are occurring in society and right in our church and churches.

~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.**

Next meeting: May 17th

Movie: Bohemian Rhapsody

Bohemian rhapsody is an enthralling celebration of Queen, their music, and their extraordinary lead singer Freddie Mercury, who defied stereotypes and convention to become one of history’s most beloved entertainers. Following Queen’s meteoric rise, their revolutionary sound, and Freddie’s solo career, the film also chronicles the band’s reunion, and one of the greatest performances in rock history.

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

Buddhist Meditation
Learn and enjoy the simple, straightforward 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 -10:30am

**Location:** UUCC

**Cost:** Free Will offering (proceeds go to UUCC)

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.**

Next DUP May 19th at 2PM

Monthly Drum Circle
Bring your drums, rattles or any other percussion instrument and join us for our monthly healing community drum circle! Extra instruments will be provided if you don’t have one. All ages are welcome! A love donation of $5 is greatly appreciated. All donations will go to UUCC and the Rainbow Tree fund. This circle is led by Karilynn Vicari of Rainbow Tree Healing Arts.

The monthly drumming circle is held the First Friday of every month at 7PM unless otherwise noted. Next meeting: May 3rd

Love to Sing?

Join the UUCC Choir! The Choir sings on the 2nd and 4th 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 meets every other Tuesday night from 7-9pm at church. Upcoming gathering dates are May 14th and 28th. Contact Colin Kirchner at colinkirchner@gmail.com.
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Event Facilitators

- Monthly Drumming Circle: Karilynn Vicari 708-543-5870
- Family First Friday: (on break)
- Yoga: Dan Feldt 708-212-3637 ddfeldt@gmail.com
- Men's Group: Karen Nielsen 708-755-3577 shanti-one@comcast.net
- Dances of Universal Peace: (off July & Aug) Colin Kirchner 708-497-0293 colinkirchner@gmail.com
- Rainbow Café: Pat Segner 708-748-2217 segnerpatricia@yahoo.com
- Dream Group: Charles Barnett 708-843-2005 chazbarnett@yahoo.com
- Forum: Geri Biamonte 312–813-4411 gkbiamonte@yahoo.com (breaks for summer)
- Movie Night: Nancy Irons 708-712-3228 irons.nancy@gmail.com
- Edgar’s Place: Jerome Rowley 714-930-6134 jerome_rowley@gmail.com
- Valerie Birk 708-704-0590 valeriebirk@gmail.com
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.