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

July 7th
Title: It's Not Our Fault: Misunderstanding the New Testament
By Emily Bushong
A scholarly survey of the writings of the New Testament, their authorship, and the Historical Jesus.

July 14th
Title: Be the One
By Reverend Denise Tracy
Who has changed your life and whose life have you changed?

July 21st
Title: How to Live: Lessons from the Dead
By Jodi Libretti
As a Life-cycle Celebrant, Jodi Libretti has been officiating end-of-life ceremonies for a number of years. This service is about the "truths" for living a good life that Jodi has gleaned through her work eulogizing and celebrating those who have died.

July 28th
Title: Unforgotten Truths
By Michael Jennings
A discussion focused on Joy & Happiness celebrated by independence, diversity & freedom! Freedom, Diversity, Independence and Community has allowed the celebration of barbecues, picnics, concerts, carnivals, parades, fireworks, family reunions, political speeches, faith-based community meetings and ceremonies. ... not a perfect nation but people dedicated to communities building communities. We will discuss...
  • How to grow learning to respect.
  • Equal recognition and opportunity led by diversity.
  • Love, the compassion that builds a community.
  • And values and acts we can share to make the world a better place.

Highlights
July 13th: The First Ever UUCC Open Mic Night
July 14th: Chris Ussery leads band at UUCC
July 28th: Michael “MJ” Jennings Worship Service

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 July will be announced at our July Sunday services.

No Forum During Summer:
Looking for New Volunteer to Coordinate Forum by Fall
Attention: Nancy Irons will no longer be coordinating Forum. We are looking for a volunteer to take on this role when Forum resumes in the fall. Please contact Nancy Irons for details at: (irons.nancy@gmail.com)

Free Movie and Discussion Night
does not meet in July and August. We are on break for the summer.
Reflecting back on the past year, I am glad that we have now spent half a year back at our church. It is great to see the profusion of nature in the back of our sanctuary, a view which many visiting celebrants have commented upon. But the diversity of our community is also evident in the profusion of special services like the one devoted to LGBTQ pride this past Sunday and the one devoted to poetry coming up next week. I want to have our community support this diversity in the coming year.

And yet with diversity comes the increased responsibility to communicate. A diverse perspective means that you and I will look at reality differently, value things differently, and express those values differently.

In order for us to work together on common projects, we have to have some way of expressing different opinions in a way that respects that differing perspective. You can see this with people that are trying to understand the worldview that generates attitudes of racism or homophobia in our society. Even if something I say is not intended to hurt another person, if a person comes up to me and says “what you said upset me,” you have to take a step back from your ego and not just reflectively say, “well, I didn’t mean to upset you,” or worse, “you took what I said the wrong way.”

What is the other person’s perspective? How are they seeing the issue that makes them feel hurt? But as they say, it takes two to tango, so if I get into a situation where I am offended by somebody, I should also be able to step back and see if I can understand the other person’s perspective and see that perhaps they did not mean to upset me.

A structure or framework that allows you to step back and see the other person’s perspective—and not be swept up in your own ego, with its attendant thoughts, feelings, and emotions—would be helpful to make sure communications are clear.

That is why I am having a review of the way that the Board communicates with members of the congregation, and with other Board members. I received a suggestion from a member that we institute the Robert’s Rules of Order in our Board meetings. A parliamentarian in our Toastmasters group is an expert on Robert’s Rules of Order, and adopting this will help our Board meetings run more smoothly. But we are also trying to develop ways that people can contact each other outside of Church that will not emphasize the differences between our perspectives, but rather to try to bridge the gap between them. We have a couple of Board members who are looking into this, so that we have a framework for responding in a way that is timely, but also allows the Board members the space to communicate with each other before responding to requests or suggestions.

This is important, because there are two problems in any group dynamic when it comes to communications. There can be the problem of a dominator hierarchy, where people who are given more authority in a group act in a way that suppresses the freedom of expression of those people over whom they have authority. UUs are especially sensitive to this, because they emphasize social justice as one of their principles and are abhorrent of the various dominator hierarchies that exist in our society. These are the structures that foster the attitudes of racism and homophobia we are trying to combat.

There are hierarchies which are not dominator types, where the group cedes a certain amount of authority to a smaller group of leaders, but these leaders have limits. Our representative democracy is supposed to be one of those structures. In our church, the by-laws of our congregation are supposed to serve this function of preventing a natural hierarchy from becoming one that is overbearing.
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 UU principles and to strengthen the wider community through service projects. The group meets 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 or Irene vanderHoek 708/305-4913 tulip51girl@gmail.com

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 UU principles and to strengthen the wider community through service projects. The group meets 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 or Irene vanderHoek 708/305-4913 tulip51girl@gmail.com

President’s Column Continued…..

But there is another problem on the other end, which goes by the lesser-known name of a dominator hierarchy. Another way of saying this is “chaos.” This is where members have so much freedom of expression that they do not recognize limits imposed by the rights of others, or on the ability of leaders to effectively lead the group. This creates the climate for bullying, or factionalism, or any one of a number of unhealthy interactions in a group.

I hope to work with the Board and all interested members in creating structures in this next year that allow people to participate in the wider work that the church does in a way that supports them and allows them to express themselves, but also protects them from being hurt by the expressions of others. I am willing to accept any help from members in this endeavor. I know in the past we have done this through a framework called a covenant, and maybe it is time we create something similar or simply renew the covenant as it was created in the past. We want you to find your voice and express it at our church! But we need ground rules like a musical score to blend those different notes together into a chorus. ~Jerome

Reminder – The woods around UUCC have quite a bit of poison ivy. Even though we spray to kill it each year, it keeps coming back. The underground runner roots are very well established. . If you are walking in the woods or even near the woods, keep an eye out for . . . . “Leaves of three, leave it be!”

Chris Ussery leads the band “Authentic Weirdo”

Sunday, July 14, 2019 5:00 pm

UUCC in Park Forest

$15 suggested donation includes their CD “Ghost Flower”

Chris Ussery leads the band "Authentic Weirdo" backing the original music of Kristin Cotts at UUCC July 14th beginning at 5pm. Food, drink, music and special guest stars from the congregation. More information coming as plans are solidified.
The “Founding Mothers” of the Unitarian-Universalist Church of Park Forest, IL
(Written by Joyce Semmler: June 11, 2019)

When Georgianna Raygor and Elaine Garretson glanced out their kitchen windows in 1951, they were more likely to see mud where lawns would flourish, and boards strategically placed to simulate sidewalks. One day, these mothers glanced across their courtyard and were struck with surprise. There, just steps away, in another kitchen window, appeared a face well-remembered from college days. We might imagine the joy of these two women to see a familiar face in their new surroundings.

Georgianna and Elaine shared many cups of coffee, their conversations turning to their growing children and to the kind of religious education the new town might offer to these receptive young minds. Georgianna, trained in the education of young children, and Elaine, a musician and piano teacher, sought a liberal religious program for their children. Apparently they did their homework, because within a year, 60 children from 20 families began participating in children’s classes and adult meetings—all in homes.

By 1954, the group incorporated as the Unitarian Fellowship, moved to rented quarters, and called its first minister, Rev. Lex Crane. The group began to attract community attention, and at the height of the Baby Boom, began renting space in a public school to house 250 students on a Sunday.

As the Unitarian-Universalist Community Church of Park Forest, this nearly 70 year old institution continues its tradition in a building designed by the architect husband of its first woman minister. Its site, a wooded setting south of the town of Park Forest, boasts wildflowers in season, and the occasional grazing deer.

Georgianna and Elaine’s husbands both served terms as presidents of the church. Dozens of area adults remember learning to play the piano under Elaine Garretson’s tutelage. Georgianna Raygor went on to found her own preschool that until her retirement defined the preschool experience for several communities.

Continued
“Connections” continued...

Simply, a Good Man. John LaBotz of the Unitarian-Universalist Church of Park Forest, IL

John La Botz graduated from high school in the years just before WWII. Rather than follow in the footsteps of his father, a baker, who had come to the United States from The Netherlands, John took a job with the sales force of Procter & Gamble, Inc. Even then, John was a man with strong convictions so that when WWII became a reality, he applied for conscientious objector status and accepted assignment to special services for the duration. John’s work ethic and his genial way with people brought success at P&G. He married Mary, and soon they had a son and a daughter. Tragically, John outlived both his wife and his adult son. Characteristically, John channeled his energy into caring for his daughter, his daughter-in-law and his two grandchildren. The Unitarian Universalist Church of Park Forest became John’s spiritual home; he served on a variety of committees from ministerial search to a 50th anniversary celebration and was elected to the Board of Trustees, serving years as Treasurer. John researched and wrote the first history of the Park Forest church. His generosity, quietly accomplished, extended to many worthy causes besides his church and provided a college education to at least one young woman, the daughter of a single mother and church member. He opened his attractive home for meetings, and he was among the first in the congregation to volunteer to staff the PADS program which offered hot meals and overnight shelter to the homeless persons in the area. John died in 2007, but to all of us who were privileged to know him and to tell his story, he remains the exemplar of a Unitarian-Universalist life well-lived.

---

Religious and Character Education
by Dan Feldt

RCE Celebration—June 2nd, 2019
A message from Valerie Birk:

Dave Rudolf and I are pleased to announce that the Southland Acoustic Music Festival we had been planning is now a definite "go"! We had our inaugural Southland Acoustic Music Festival in the summer of 2017, to help commemorate Edgar's Place Coffee House being in operation for 25 years. We did not hold it last summer while the church was undergoing major remodeling and had been uninhabitable.

The festival will take place from 1:00 to approximately 7:30 PM here at UUCC. It will go on rain or shine. We hope for great weather so we can have it in the beautiful outdoor area, but in case of rain, it will be held in the church sanctuary.

Admission at the gate will be $15.00 for adults. $10 for kids under 12. Coming soon will be a chance to purchase your tickets online at the church website (uuccpf.org) up until the day before the festival for a savings of $2.00 per ticket.

We are still in need of donors to the festival to help with expenses, including paying our talented performers. Any amount is welcome, but if you donate $25.00 you will get 2 free admissions to the festival. In other words, you're getting in for free, and saving $5.00 off the regular price of admission!

A donation of $50.00 will get you 4 free admissions. This is a $10 savings off the price of 4 admissions at the gate.

A donation of $100.00 will get you 4 free admissions, as well as other cool swag, like signed CDs, posters, and who knows what other cool stuff!

You can donate by check, made out to UUCC, and mailing the check to the church. Be sure to write "music festival" in the memo line. The church's mailing address is UUCC, 70 Sycamore Drive, Park Forest, IL 60422.

In the next week or so, we will also have a way to donate through the church website (uuccpf.org) using PayPal. We will let you know when that becomes available.

We are working on our all star line up as I write this! Acts we have so far include:

My co-producer Dave Rudolf and friends! Dave is a Gold Record, Grammy nominated artist, 15 time College Entertainer of the Year nominee, who always puts on an awesome show, as many of you already know. Learn more about Dave at his website daverrudolf1.com

Ashley & Simpson: That's Jennifer Ashley and Joel Simpson! This fabulous country folk duo are making a big splash in the folk community. They opened 2 seasons ago for Dave at Edgar's Place. Learn more at ashleyandsimpson.com

Dean Milano and Chris Minardi: Two great guys with a lot of talent that have been doing all kinds of music for a long time. More info on Dean at http://www.toys-n-cars.com/my_music.htm. More on Chris at chrisomj.com.

Cheryl Rodey: Cheryl Rodey is a vocal powerhouse that will blow you away with a genuineness that can make anyone feel the love of music. Between her incredible vocals and passionate guitar playing, Cheryl is a bright rising star. More on Cheryl at cherylrodeymusic.com. More to come! We are still working on our line up. Stay tuned...

- Do you have a craft you'd be interested in selling at the festival? We are considering having a few craft tables, which we did 2 years ago. If you think you might be interested, please contact me (Valerie) at your earliest convenience.

- Do you sing and/or play an instrument? We are looking at having a "community showcase" at the beginning of the festival. Please contact either myself or Dave Rudolf if you think you'd like to participate in this. Dave's email is drudolf5500@sbcglobal.net.

- Would you like to show off your baking talents? We will be having a bake sale to support the good work of the church, and to provide tasty snacks at the festival! Please contact Valerie if you would like to donate home baked goodies.

- Would you like to be part of this exciting event, and get in free? We can use volunteers in various capacities for the day of the event. Contact either Dave or myself if you'd like to volunteer.

Please bring lawn chairs or blankets, sunscreen and bug repellent, and anything else you might need on an August afternoon.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Valerie Birk
We have started to plan for an end of summer Rummage Sale. Please begin to put donations aside for this event. We will soon establish a drop-off spot in the coatroom. We particularly want nice things, deserving of a good home.

For more information, or if you would like to volunteer for this event, please contact Nancy Irons (irons.nancy@gmail.com).

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 July 2019 Schedule follows:

July 5th and July 7th - "Reflections on Black History" featuring Wayne Sebamurti Gentry and Dr. Josef Ben Levi.
July 12th and July 14th - "Restoring Your True Identity: Part 1" Wayne Sebamurti Gentry (videotaped at The Unitarian Universalist Community Church)
July 19th and July 21st - "Restoring Your True Identity Part 2" featuring Wayne Sebamurti Gentry.
July 26th and July 28th - "European Philosophy: From Theory to Practice" featuring Dr. Josef Ben Levi.
Hello everyone. Just got back from downtown Chicago giving a talk on the “Green New Deal”. I have been considering writing on the Green New Deal here but found other topics just as relevant to share on here. So now is my time for us to have this conversation. I have a summary below to start with. See full article HERE.

Among its provisions:

A dramatic expansion of renewable energy, and energy and water efficiency upgrades for all existing U.S. buildings.

An overhaul of the country’s transportation system to eliminate pollution and emissions from the sector “as much as technologically feasible,” with a nod to investment in zero-emission vehicles, public transit, and high-speed rail.

Efforts to promote clean manufacturing free of pollution byproducts and greenhouse gas emissions “as much as technologically feasible.”

Steps to lessen the effects of climate change, build a smart grid, clean up hazardous waste sites and restore threatened lands.

A goal of health care and guaranteed jobs for all.

The green new deal is not a law to be enacted but a resolution of goals for the country to move into. As can be expected, our conservative counterparts have been quite cynical of the resolution, telling us there will be no hamburgers cows and cars. Which is not true at all. The Green New deal resolves to reach 100% renewable energy in electricity by 2030, and other polluting sectors later. I have been ever so hopeful to work towards 100% renewable for about the last 10 years. To see our young people put out this 14 page statement is just the best development on the political scene since Obama brought out the Clean Power plan.

This plan also hits along the lines of floating all boats of bringing the lower income people along to share in the wealth and change of this. This is what the New Deal did in the 1930’s and I would love to see this again. Lets stay tuned and see where the country goes. Take care everyone.

~Jeff Green
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.

Doors open approximately 6:30pm. Movie starts at 7pm. Soft drinks are served.

Next meeting: July 19th
Movie: The Happy Prince

“The Happy Prince” In a cheap Parisian hotel, Oscar Wilde, (Rupert Everett), lies on his deathbed and recalls his past with wit and irony. Once the most famous man in London, he reviews the failed attempt to reconcile with his long suffering wife, (Emily Watson), the ensuing revilng of his fatal love affair with Lord Alfred Douglas (Colin Morgan) and the devotion of Robbie Ross (Edwin Thomas) who tried and failed to save him from himself. From Dieppe to Naples to Paris, Oscar is a penniless vagabond. Shunned by his old acquaintances, but revered by a strange group of outlaws to whom he tells the old stories - his incomparable talent still sharp.

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. The group DOES NOT meet in July.

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 does not meet in July

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 Thera-vadan 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 Beverly Feldt - bevfeldt@gmail.com

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

Men’s group meets every other Tuesday night from 7-9pm at church. Upcoming gathering dates are July 9th and 23rd.
Contact Colin Kirchner at colinkirchner@gmail.com
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30am Yoga</td>
<td></td>
<td>7pm Yoga</td>
<td>9:30am Yoga</td>
<td>NO DRUMMING CIRCLE THIS MONTH</td>
<td></td>
<td>10am Dream Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7am Worship/RE</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30am Potluck</td>
<td>9:30am Yoga</td>
<td>7pm Men's Group</td>
<td>1pm Connections Group</td>
<td>7pm Yoga</td>
<td>9:30am Yoga</td>
<td>9am Meditation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10am Worship/RE</td>
<td>9:30am Yoga</td>
<td></td>
<td>7pm Yoga</td>
<td>7:30am Yoga</td>
<td>6:30pm Rainbow Cafe</td>
<td>9am Meditation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5pm Chris Ussery concert</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10am Worship/RE</td>
<td>9:30am Yoga</td>
<td>7pm Men's Group</td>
<td>1pm Connections Group</td>
<td>7pm Yoga</td>
<td>9:30am Yoga</td>
<td>9am Meditation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10am Worship</td>
<td>9:30am Yoga</td>
<td></td>
<td>7pm Yoga</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Event Facilitators**

- Monthly Drumming Circle: (off July) Karilynn Vicari 708-543-5870
- Family First Friday: (on break) 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: (off July & Aug) 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: (breaks for summer) Nancy Irons 708-712-3228 irons.nancy@gmail.com
- Movie Night: Jerome Rowley 714-930-6134 jerome_rowley@gmail.com
- Edgar’s Place: (begins in the fall with a new facilitator, Dave Rudolf. Stay tuned for updates).
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.