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

January 5th
Title: Everything You Always Wanted to Know About ###, But Were Afraid to Ask
By Robert “Chief” Jensen

January 12th
Title: Cats, Collies and Gardens: (What Congregational size says about spirituality, growth and survival of the future church.)
By Reverend Denise Tracy
As a congregational consultant, Reverend Denise Tracy shares what she has learned that might be helpful for UUCC to consider.

January 19th
Title: Making Connections: Can UUs Cure the Loneliness Epidemic?
By Jodi Libretti
With our culture’s emphasis on individual happiness, online communication, and busy-ness, many people find their social circles shrinking. Hear how our UU principles perfectly equip us to combat social isolation and its harmful consequences for our physical and emotional health.

January 26th
Title: Waking Up: A Conversation About Race
By The Waking Up Team
How do we embrace and celebrate the whole human family as we walk together? We will share some of our discoveries with the Waking Up Study Group.

Highlights
Saturday, January 18th at 7:30pm
Edgar’s Place Presents Felton Offard & Friends

Save the Date!
Saturday, February 15th
Valentine’s Party! 2-6pm
We will be kicking off the Capital Campaign with a Valentine celebration! Plans are still being developed, but be sure to join us for live music, dancing, hors d’oeuvres, desserts, and a ticket auction! Help to pass the word to all friends of UUCC that we want everyone to attend. A bit of a reunion is possible!

Forum
Follows the Sunday Service (11:30am)

January 5th: No Forum - Potluck Sunday
January 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.

January 19th: Waking Up Discussion with Julie Haverty, Nancy Frazier, Marilyn Ragland and Beverly Feldt
Join us for an ongoing monthly discussion group exploring racism.

January 26th: You Be The One with Darlene Obejda
Who helped you become who you are? How do we pay this forward? Are there people you wish to be the one for?
I’m writing this on Christmas Day, so I wanted to first wish a Merry Christmas (or whatever holiday you choose to follow) and a happy New Year!

Now is the time of the year that I go on a retreat and plan for the New Year. I’m going down to St. Louis to visit my cousins, and I won’t be back until New Year’s Day of 2020.

I wanted to share my plans as far as the church is concerned, and the first thing I want to say is that I will be leaving the church next year. I need to change shifts at work from night shift to day shift starting in January, and doing so will mean that I will work Sunday during the day rather than at night and that means I can’t attend any of the Sunday services from now on. I will still continue to be the President of Trustees until the end of June, but do not plan on being on the Board after that.

The reason I’m leaving the church doesn’t have to do with how much I like being a member. Ever since I moved in the area in 2013, I found from the moment I joined that I got along with most of the members of the congregation, and wanted to participate in steering the church towards a better future in the following half decade while I was on the Board, first as a regular Board member and then as the President of the Board for two consecutive terms.

Many of you will recall when I had a retreat at the church to brainstorm ideas on how to improve the church. Some of those plans came into fruition, but many were waylaid as I had to spend a lot of time and energy dealing with the two crises of 1) the issues dealing with the Children’s Story, specifically on how the celebrant should discipline children who are not paying attention, and 2) the floods, the minor one and the major one that occurred in February 2018.

As far as the second crisis is concerned, that has been for the most part resolved in that the repairs and restoration are complete—indeed we’ve been back in our building since the beginning of 2019, and its appearance has even improved because of the fresh coats of paint that have been applied to the walls.

As far as the first crisis is concerned, on the Board we have overseen the process of writing guidelines for the celebrant to follow with respect to the Children’s Story, and the process is now complete. The celebrant is now informed upon taking the assignment that he or she is NOT responsible for disciplining the child when he or she is not paying attention to what the celebrant is saying. I hope that this prevents any further incidents which caused great divisiveness in the church when they occurred.

So with the crises averted, now it is time for the church to move forward on future plans. There are newer members of the congregation who are stepping up in terms of leadership, and I plan to encourage them and other interested members of the congregation to have a retreat in March so that the next generation in the church can have a voice in shaping its future (the earlier generations are of course invited to participate in the effort).

However, after giving half a decade or more in service to the church, I find it is time for me to step down in terms of leadership. It’s not just because I face opposition from those in the congregation who are opposed to authority in any shape or form (that is an occupational hazard of being in the leadership of a liberal congregation which opposes authoritarianism in all its manifestations in society). It’s also because my leadership skills are more in demand elsewhere.

I have been an Area Director at Toastmasters International this past year, and I have been encouraged to take on the even more demanding role of being a Division Director for the entire South Division starting in July of 2020.

At work, I have been encouraged to apply for a management training position, again starting in the summer of this coming year.
The President’s Column (continued)

Now that I am no longer working on Wednesday nights, I am planning to rejoin the Project Management Institute which meets once a month on Wednesday evening, and again my former colleagues have asked if I want to get involved again in the Department of Education, where I was once the Directory of Certification when I first came to Chicago back in 2013.

With all of those requests for me to step up in leadership positions elsewhere, I find I will not have the time to continue being in the leadership here at the church.

This is especially true because I am taking on yet another leadership role starting in 2020. I am going to be the cohost of a radio program on Truth Radio AM 1570 which airs every Friday night from 6:00 to 7:00 PM starting January 17th.

With all of that on my plate in 2020, I am stepping down from leadership in the church this year, and I will take a diminished role in the church starting in January. However, my conscience dictates that, even though I was not able to accomplish everything that I wanted to in the past half decade, I do sincerely wish for the church to succeed going forward and therefore will put my efforts into conducting a retreat in the month of March. I will continue to have this column in the Newsletter until June 2020, so I will give you more details about the retreat in the months ahead.

I hope 2020 will turn out to be a great one for the country, as we turn away from our slide towards authoritarianism and towards a more inclusive participation from all members of society in a more vibrant version of democracy. But I hope that it will also be a good one for the church, as we turn towards greater inclusion of the younger generations in our church into the folds of our leadership.

Happy New Year, everybody!

~Jerome

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 2020 Schedule follows:

January 3rd and January 5th - “Ancient Kmt: Light of the World” featuring Dr. Josef Ben Levi
January 10th and January 12th - “Triumphing Over Trauma” featuring Hunter Havlin Adams III
January 17th and January 19th - “Examining Homicide and Suicide in the Black Community” featuring ANCESTOR Dr. Carl Bell
January 24th and January 26th - “Arrested Development: Know Thy Addiction I” featuring Dr. Adeyimi Fatoki and Dr. Anthony Redmond

Go to www.youtube.com to view previous H3O TV programs and search Gloria Peace on tool bar.
• Gloria Peace talked to Rev. Denise Tracy in a segment of Gloria's talk show. Then UUCC held a Forum, showing that segment of the filming. See image below of Gloria Peace projected on our third classroom wall that I took.

• Rob vanderLogt provided some of us with a link—http://www.uua.org/conversations/invitation—that has good information about how to be inclusive. It's called "An Invitation to Conversations for Liberation.” The article states that the way to grow a church is from the outside - in.

• The nominating committee has recommended Tia Wilson to be a Board member. Tia preaches at both UUCC and Hobart UU.

• Many of you know that Richard (Dick) Norton passed away recently. Dick and Helen were married on Christmas Day, and this year would have been their 64th anniversary. They are both 87! Dick was a world-renowned architect. Besides designing the Park Forest library and fire station, he also designed the Taipei Museum of Science, which was an 11-year project that involved many trips there!

• I’d like to thank all the people at UUCC who made “We Gather Together”, the interfaith Thanksgiving service that we hosted. It was so beautiful. Beccie Bruckner coordinated it. Joyce Semmler and Maria Markowitcz made delicious cookies. Irene vanderHoek and Rich Treptow ushered. Chris Ussery was a dream to work with for the music. Bev Feldt and the choir rocked the house. Nancy Irons blended the Pagan tradition with a beautiful sunset and set the stage for Pastor Amos Oladipo from Grace Church who is a nature enthusiast. A special thanks from me to Virginia Jackson, our Office Administrator, who put the program together and allowed me to read a beautiful meditation.

• Chief Bob Jensen gave me a trip report written by our former minister, Dr. Rev. Randy Becker. The full report is on the bulletin board. Rev. Randy traveled by train to Baltimore for a professional conference from his home in Key West. He tells about the food on The Silver Star RR and the roomette which was well equipped to provide Rev. Randy Becker’s own meals. He concludes “All in all, a great trip - every leg went perfectly, all crews were polite and helpful. My accommodations were comfortable, and I enjoyed the new dining options: decent food, multiple hot food choices, loved eating when I wanted, being able to linger after the meals.” He was looking forward to the return home trip. Chief Jensen and Joyce Sligar like to ride the train as do I.

• There is a Veteran’s Closet in downtown Park Forest where a veteran can choose home furnishings, etc. for a reasonable price. Donations can be picked up. Call Mike Galans at 708-748-2829.
Financial Update—Tax Letters and Thanks—by Nancy Irons

The end of December will mark the halfway point in our fiscal year. Are you halfway through paying your pledge? If not, please feel free to get caught up. All of your pledge donations are tax deductible.

Do you itemize your tax deductions? Would you like to receive an official report of your 2019 contributions to UUCC? If so, please see me, Nancy Irons, UUCC Treasurer. I can provide you with such a report by the middle of January 2020.

I want to take the opportunity to thank everyone who contributed to the financial well being of UUCC this past year! Most recently, Andy Steven’s Candle Labyrinth brought in $232 for fundraising! This fall, Edgar’s Place has contributed $354. Since this July, the start of our fiscal year, Zen Meditation has brought in $304. Again, thank you to everyone who participated in these activities and particularly to the organizers who made them possible. We truly appreciate your efforts.

One of the areas under appreciated artists, Felton Offard, is a great guitarist/composer/producer and educator. A versatile artist, he has been a performer in several Broadway shows including Hamilton: An American Musical, Motown the Musical, The First Wives Club, Oprah Winfrey Presents: The Color Purple, Jersey Boys, the Addams Family, Standing in the Shadows of Motown Live with Peabo Bryson & Leelah Hames, Crowns and numerous others. He has two solo CDs that have received great reviews and national airplay: RISE and Invincible.

Felton’s music has been featured in TV shows. He will be performing works from his upcoming release, “Baby Plays the Blues.” Felton will be accompanied by friends from the local jazz-blues scene and Broadway singers. For a night of incredible blues, outstanding guitar work and great vocalists, don’t miss this special show. For more information, click HERE.

$15 Cover charge
Call for reservations

Sat Jan 18th, 7:30pm
General Assembly 2020 - Register Now

General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where we conduct business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles. Please join us **Wednesday, June 24 through Sunday, June 28, 2020** in Providence, Rhode Island for this 5-day immersive experience where we participate in inspirational worship services and informative workshops, reconvene with friends and colleagues, and explore our bustling exhibit hall. The theme for General Assembly in June 2020 is Rooted, Inspired, & Ready!

**Registration and Housing**

Registration is now open at [uua.org/ga](http://uua.org/ga). Full-time registration is $400 for adults, $240 for high school youth and retired and candidate ministers, $150 for off-site registrants. Register by March 15 for the lowest rate. Rates will increase on March 16 and again on May 1. See website for options for paying in installments.

**DO YOU LOVE LOVE?**

(I know, it sounds like that commercial!) If you love love, do you want to share the love? We want to have a ticket auction at the Valentine Party where people can play to win baskets of love! That’s right, baskets of love! So, what do you love? Can you share that love?

Perhaps you love art? Do you have art supplies or works of your own art you might like to pass on? Do you love cooking? Perhaps you have recipe books or cooking gadgets you would like to pass on. Perhaps you love coffee? How about a French press or chocolate covered coffee beans or a gift card to Starbucks? We are calling on you to share the love. Please put together a themed gift basket to be auctioned off… Alternately, did you get something nice for Christmas that you really do not love? Something in need of a loving home? Pass it on! There will be a donation drop off box in the coatroom. We want nice quality items particularly themed baskets for our ticket auction fundraiser.

**POP TOP COLLECTION PROGRAM**

Little things make a big difference. You can help support the Ronald McDonald Houses of Chicagoland by donating the tabs you pull to open soda, soup and other aluminum cans. The funds generated from our Pop Tab Program help support their programs. Remember, there is a pop top collection jar located in the kitchen at UUCC. Please bring in our pop tops to contribute to this worthwhile charity.

Nancy Irons leading the Winter Solstice Celebration at UUCC.
Today I Share an Online Article About Global Warming
(quotes from the article are italicized and in red)
See full article by clicking HERE.

One of the biggest challenges of global warming is our own minds. Can you visualize your world without fossil fuels?

"Focusing only on emissions reductions can potentially miss—and mischaracterize—the more important challenge of decarbonization," says Matthew Hoffmann, a professor of political science at U of T Scarborough who co-authored the study.

"We need a new way to think about the decarbonization challenge and a new means to explore policies and practices that can begin deep, meaningful decarbonization efforts."

Just recently we had to get a new hot water heater, so I’m thinking this is a time to switch from natural gas to electric water heat. There was some resistance by my wife to change out of natural gas. Covering climate change for 13 almost 14 years, there is the discussion needed around what changes to make. This isn’t a walk in the park, there are a lot of feelings taking place to get out in the open and to come to a conclusion of what is best.

"Any efforts at decarbonization really need to take into account how carbon lock-in is a very similar problem at multiple levels, and they all tend to reinforce one another," he says.

Case in point: efforts to replace coal-fired energy with natural gas. While burning natural gas has much lower emissions than burning coal, there's no change in dependence on fossil energy—it's just swapping one fossil fuel for another.

I was at Obama’s science advisor’s talk in the history museum, Talking to a person in the parking garage about global warming looking at my wife’s Toyota Prius, realizing that the Prius is not enough in decarbonization. Its better to go straight to an all electric car. Seven years later, I am finally in a non fossil fuel car.

Another area is our heating systems in our homes. I have been looking at this area wondering how to get this done. There are three furnaces in our two different buildings on our property. We actually are considering leaving this house and going into another one somewhere down the road. Cilla (my wife), does not want to invest in our current home with a heat pump. I was feeling stuck on this, when I thought of our cottage. Suggesting the cottage to be heated with a heat pump brought about an immediate yes. “Why didn’t you think of this earlier! “

There is a great deal to discuss in the area of transitioning out of fossil fuels. We look at our pocket books and see what it is we can do and what is something pragmatic. Water heaters, stoves, barbecue grills, cars and the list can go on. What are your thoughts on transitioning?

Hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. From the Green Sanctuary Team,

Andy, Melinda, Deann, Richard, Dave, Jeff
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 Café is open every 3rd Friday of the month. Doors open approximately 6:30pm. Movie starts at 7pm. Soft drinks are served.

The January 17th Rainbow Cafe “Man in an Orange Shirt”
From novelist Patrick Gale, this is a tender, powerful film sure to spark conversation about outdated attitudes and equal rights. Two love stories set 60 years and linked by a secret that echoes through generations. From a forbidden relationship impossible during WW II, contrasted with a present-day romance that is nearly derailed by the 1940’s tale with which it is deeply intertwined.

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 class is FREE. Call (708) 755-3577 for more information.

Buddhist Meditation
Learn and enjoy the simple, straight-forward practice of meditation. Please join us for sitting and walking meditation in the Zen and Theravadin Buddhist traditions. This is an ongoing event led by Steve McCabe and Beverly Feldt.

Saturdays at 9am -10:30am
Location: UUCC
Cost: Free Will offering (proceeds go to UUCC)
For questions, contact Beverly Feldt bevfeldt@gmail.com

Drum Circle
January 3rd at 7PM
Bring your drums, rattles or any other percussion instrument and join us! Extra instruments will be provided if you don’t have one. A love donation of $5 is greatly appreciated. All donations will go to UUCC.

Love to Sing?
Join the UUCC Choir! The Choir sings on the 2nd and 4th Sundays each month, with one weekday evening per month.
No experience required. If interested, email our choir director Bev Feldt at bevfeldt@gmail.com.

Connections Group
Connections groups provide a space to share your perspectives and experiences, learn about and support each other, and discover what we have in common. All are welcome to attend, whether church members or not. Come join us!

Daytime Group meets: January 8th and 22nd at 1pm.
Evening Group meets: January 15th and 29th at 7pm.

Dances of Universal Peace: Meets (Sept-June)
Dances of Universal Peace are held on the 2nd or 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. More info Contact certified dance leader, Pat Segner, at 708-748-2217.

DUP next meets on January 19th at 2pm

The UUCC
MEN’S GROUP
Men’s groups meet every other Tuesday night from 7-9pm at the church.
Upcoming gathering dates are January 7th and 21st
Contact Colin Kirchner at colinkirchner@gmail.com
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**Event Facilitators**

- **Monthly Drumming Circle:** Raegan Bricks raegan.bricks@gmail.com
- **Family First Friday:** (currently 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) Pat Segner 708-748-2217 segnerpatricia@yahoo.com
- **Rainbow Café:** Colin Kirchner 708-497-0293 colinkirchner@gmail.com
- **Forum:** Currently looking for a facilitator
- **Edgar’s Place:** Dave Rudolf daverudolf50@gmail.com
- **Connections Group Day:** JoAnn Franczek 219/629-0815, Irene vanderHoek 708/305-4913 tulip51girl@gmail.com
- **Connections Group Eve:** Rob van de Logt (708-973-1088) or Jodi Libretti (312-371-4713)
Church Information
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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.