Due to the current public health crisis, we will not be meeting in-person at UUCC during this period of Governor Pritzker's "Stay at Home Order." We began to live stream our Sunday services on March 29th and will continue live streaming for at least several more weeks, even after we are again open for in-person attendance. An email will be sent to you with more information including a “Meeting ID.” The speakers and topics listed below are tentative and may change as the situation evolves. Please be flexible during this time of uncertainty.

Thank you for your understanding. Click HERE to view a video on how to join a Zoom meeting. You may call in up to 15 minutes before the meeting. For the option to connect by phone, call the Number +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) then enter the Meeting ID that you received in your email invitation.

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

April 5th
“Awareness, Perspective, and the Awakening of Compassion”
By: Pete O’Day
The Buddha reminds us that we are all Conditioned Beings. Socrates warned us that "The unexamined life is not worth living". And the new testament states "the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself". How are these ancient wisdoms, and a rock and roll song from South Africa, intertwined in one late life epiphany?

April 12th
“Alleluia”
By: Reverend Denise Tracy
This service is a meditation on the word Alleluia. What does the word mean, where has it come from and how do we use it today?

April 19th
“From the Mouths of Babes”
By: Monica Regan
Wisdom of the ages can inform and inspire us, but what about the present? And the wisdom of the future generations?

April 26th
“Moonstruck”
By: Margaret Reister
What did our ancestors have to say about our closest Heavenly Body? The moon represents the feminine divine, Creator, source. What can she reveal to the world today?

PLEASE NOTE: Forum is on hold for the time being. Some groups may be meeting via Zoom teleconferencing. Please contact group leaders for any updates.

Coming Events: UUCC has an Indiana Dunes Camp out scheduled by Barb Morris on Saturday night, June 20th, at Nisaki Group Camp #2. Free with the entrance fee of $12/car. Save the date!

Welcome: 2 New Sunday Speakers
Learn more about two new Sunday Speakers (Pete O’Day and Maggie Reister) in this newsletter.
As everybody in the congregation is probably aware, because of the guidelines from the UUA national association that no meetings or activities should take place in the church for the time being, the Board at our last meeting decided that all of the services at UUCCPF will be virtual services. This means that an announcement will go out by e-mail and you will be given instructions on how to link to the virtual meeting through an application called Zoom.

I was pleasantly surprised at how everybody came together to pitch in to make our first service a success. There were two rehearsals, and each time some technical glitches were addressed. By Sunday, it seems that most of those issues had been dealt with, and we are getting ready to go forth in April to have our services continue. They will be recorded, so if you miss a particular service, you will be able to watch it later. Instructions on how to access this "rerun" will also be sent by e-mail. Some of the congregants have a technical background and we are relying on them to help us navigate these uncharted waters.

I hope you will have patience and realize that, though distance may separate us, our intentions bind us together and will allow us to maintain our physical, mental, and spiritual health during the crisis ahead. I have been made proud of how much everybody has put aside the differences that normally have and are working together as a community. This is a positive reaction to a negative situation we have all been thrown in together, and I am heartened by it.

Margaret Reister and Pete O’Day

Two new Sunday Service Speakers who we will have the opportunity to hear this month are Pete O’Day and Margaret Reister. Pete O’Day will lead our service on April 5th and Maggie Reister will lead on the 26th. They are both from the First Unitarian Church of Hobart.

Margaret Reister is an active member of the First Unitarian Church of Hobart. Past president of the Board she currently serves as Treasurer and chair of worship Ministry. Maggie is a singer/actor in the community theater and she has been a financial advisor for over 30 years. She lives in Valparaiso, Indiana with her husband Tom. They love to visit their two children and six grandchildren in North Carolina.

Pete O’Day, age 64, has been a member of the First Unitarian Church of Hobart since 2012. Pete presently is on the worship committee and the ministerial search committee. Pete is active in the church’s Tuesday night Buddhist Sangha, and the related Thursday night meditation Sangha inside Indiana State Prison. Pete and his wife, Cindy, a high school teacher in Chesterton Indiana, live in Merrillville Indiana, and Pete works as an engineer in Illinois.

Pete began his life’s faith journey as a humanist, reared in a strictly atheistic household, but he now believes deeply in the value of, and the honor in, the wisdom of traditions of all faiths. Pete retains the belief that all spiritual paths are, like science itself, human-invented, and so to be properly appreciated, the beauty of their teachings must be treasured as great but ever imperfect works. We must all relinquish what we “know” to learn what really “is” – and a church is at its best when it is teaching us how little we know.
This is my second year of writing this Connections column and I'm glad to be doing it, thanks to a beautiful friendship with Diane O'Connor. It's a creative outlet for me in this "shelter in place" time. Here's some ways to connect:

- Care Circles are starting in Church. People are emailing each other every day. I miss our Unitarian Church fellowship at services so much but the emails help. The daytime Covenant Group with Irene and JoAnn is setting up a Zoom conference.

- I suggested we do a Zoom video/phone Board of Trustees meeting and we did! Thanks to Nancy Irons, Virginia Jackson and Jerome for buying a church Zoom site. And kudos to the Board members and joiners who Zoomed together to make important decisions and be safe at home. Zoom_Launcher.exe is free but it's only for 40 minutes. UUCC's Board Meeting was less than an hour.

- Chief Jensen and I Zoomed with First Unitarian/Hobart on Sunday. Hobart did a video/phone check in with their people at home. Some played music. Others held up their dogs for us to see. (I have an old desktop so I didn't have video. But I was able to dial in with my phone and speak). I bragged about our 40 minute Board meeting and could see the amazement on their faces. (I could see other people on my computer and they could hear me).

- UUCC's Fellowship Dinner and annual meeting is hopefully May 17th. The Pledge Drive is going to have to be on-line.

- I did my taxes on-line for free with H&R Block. It's the first time on-line for me but they gave good help. Free for Seniors.

- PADS is putting up guests at a hotel. People are driving by in cars and dropping off food. Carl Wolf of the Hobart Church and Director of Respond Now has helped immensely. Doug Kenshol, the Director of PADS said I could share his e-mail. (See PADS UPDATES page in this newsletter).

- My grandchildren have been doing a "Dance Party" for music and riding bikes around the block for PE. They attend CPS and Marist. The staff of Chicago Public Schools, (including Principal, VP, Maintenance, Kitchen help etc.) has been delivering meals to the homes of needy students. I substitute teach at Public Schools where the children eat at least two meals a day. This is important because some children rely on getting their meals at school.

- The Knowledge Exchange at Governors State University is postponed until the Fall semester.

- Jodi is going to put out an on-line survey to help us schedulers and get input from the congregation. General results will be shared. Private results are confidential.

Keep Connecting.
Barb

UUCC’s first online service held on March 29th and led by Beverly Feldt. Worship assistant was Maria Markowicz, Chris Ussery led music worship.
PADS UPDATES

(An update on how PADS has been contributing amazing support and teamwork to the homeless community during the coronavirus pandemic)

Below is an update from our Volunteer Coordinator, Liz Agbarah.

- Hotel shelter is going VERY WELL. I was there tonight at 7:15, which was right as dinner was wrapping up. Guests are happy, complying with the rules of the hotel and our rules, they are being kind to the hotel staff, and have worked with Reggie to ensure the smooth distribution of all food and hygiene items.

- We are doing great with our food donations!

- Shelters are all committing to providing dinner every night, and if anything changes, they will be reaching out to me. I was able to speak to almost every meal team today for every shelter. I spoke to 97 different people today. People are very happy to drop off in the hotel lobby and leave.

- Troy O'Quinn has committed to staying open even after Governor Pritzker's announcement today.

- FCC has dropped off a great amount of breakfast and lunch items to the hotel, all individually packaged for easy and safe distribution.

- Carl Wolf dropped off a donation that Respond received of 80 turkey sandwiches on nice rolls and 80 individual milks (which we have been trying to get for morning cereal).

- St. Lawrence O'Toole dropped off a bunch of supplies from their shelter location to the Chicago Heights office. They brought shelter supplies that we had ordered from Warehouse Direct, but also a refrigerator full of food, and personal hygiene items that we will get to the hotel next week.

- Mike from Restoration Ministries dropped off a ton of shelter supplies too.

- Sally from Church of the Holy Family sent me a complete inventory of everything she has, and things that are in her freezer, we kept there, but can be picked up if we begin to run low.

- The rest from the refrigerator and nonperishable items were dropped off at my house. She also sent personal hygiene items, masks, and gloves, some cleaning supplies, and a tub of games, coloring books, and cards for the people to pass time at the hotel.

- Steve came by my house and filled his trunk with things we needed to have at the hotel. He also picked up the lunches from Thornton and brought everything to the hotel.

- I have reached out to Karen Zerante about helping with meals. If things become even more shut down in Illinois and volunteers are unable to provide food to our guests, I'd like to have a back up plan.

- I am in touch with Ed and Joe's restaurant in Tinley Park who is ready if we have a night where there is no dinner.

- I am in touch with (thanks to Carl Wolf) Carla Lorenzetti who is able to provide at least one dinner each week if needed.

I think that about wraps up my day. In short, things are running really well, and the community is STEPPING UP in a big way! I remember reading about the flu in the 1918 and when it was all over, people had a difficult time coming to terms with how they had reacted and shut out their neighbors and didn't take care of each other in the time of despair. Thankfully that is not the case with our shelter community. I have found myself begging some of our volunteers to please NOT help because of their age or medical conditions.

I hope you are all doing well and remaining healthy!
Summer Vacation FUN for SINGLE ADULTS

“You Are Invited” to attend a FUN CATION CAMP for SINGLE ADULTS. Two Camps are sponsored by AMUUSE (Adult UU Singles Enrichment) this summer:

KETTUNEN CENTER, TUSTIN, MICHIGAN
JULY 12-18

TOWER HILL CAMP, SAWYER, MICHIGAN
AUGUST 9-15

Mornings of AMUUSE camps offer you the opportunity to truly contact with a small group of campers with similar interests in a morning group interacting on various topics. Afternoons are open for a wide range of activities (vocational, social, crafts, or perhaps to just relax and enjoy the idyllic surroundings). Evenings offer a variety of fun activities which might include a coffeehouse, a costume party, a campfire, or a camp show. In addition there is dancing and playing board and card games as well as hanging out at the informal hospitality area.

We also sponsor Weekend Get-Aways in March, May and November. These are less formal gatherings with a varied schedule which still includes morning groups and offers activities and/or discussions. Usually there is a formal evening activity as well.

If this sounds to you like the adventure of a lifetime, you are right!!

For more details see the AMUUSE web site at www.amuuse.org.

Financial Update
Pledge Sunday and Capital Campaign

It is sad that church services and activities are on hold for now, however our expenses continue. We still need to heat the building, have insurance, pay equipment leases, etc. If you usually turn in your monthly pledge on the first Sunday of the month, please consider mailing it in instead. I will be at church at least once per week to process deposits and pay bills. We very much appreciate your ongoing support during this stressful time.

We usually have our pledge drive during the first three weeks in April. I would like to maintain that schedule; however, it will need to be primarily by telephone and email. I apologize if that seems impersonal to you. Please let me know (irons.nancy@gmail.com or 708-712-3228) if you are willing to be a telephone canvasser for this effort.
My last article ended with “See you in church.” How things have changed since that brief time ago, watching the corona virus slowly and then rapidly infecting us in the United States. The testing issue raging over the TV gave me pause to question as to how, what and when this is happening around me. So whatever was shown on TV, you can know that it is far bigger than what was being shown. So I pulled out of my health club about 2 or 3 days before schools were closed.

Corona virus has changed our lives drastically. My wife and I were talking about it; how did this happen to us? We have a very modern health system, the best in history of human kind, yet all we can do is sit it out with limitations on our behavior to protect ourselves and to protect others. We don’t know who has it, we don’t know even if we have it. Until we get sick or we don’t even get sick. And yet we can infect others. We cannot see it, our detection of it is bungled by our political/health system.

With the incompetence of our President, we need to do all the more to take care of ourselves. In the You Tube video above they talk about flattening the curve at the end. I think every one that has a TV has probably noticed the two different curves. We now have responsibility for our actions. Not to get infected and to not infect others. Information coming out of China is that 4 out of 5 infections came from people who did not know they were infected. The responsible way to act now is as if you are infected and then to treat others as if they are infected. Also our behavior contributes to the flattening of the curve. Our system of freedom of the individual is being challenged here. Our behavior in what is now considered a reckless action, can contribute to a possible overwhelmed medical system.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in church, whenever that happens.

**Our seventh Principle**, respect for the interdependent web of all existence, is a glorious statement. Yet we make a profound mistake when we limit it to merely an environmental idea. It is so much more. It is our response to the great dangers of both individualism and oppression. It is our solution to the seeming conflict between the individual and the group.
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 April 2020 Schedule follows:

April 3rd and April 5th - “To Tell the Truth” featuring Spencer Leak, Sr.

April 10th and April 12th - “Making Money Make Sense, Part One” featuring Ray Aikens and Karen Eberhart Miller

April 17th and April 19th - “Making Money Make Sense, Part Two” featuring Karen Eberhart Miller and Ray Aikens

April 24th and April 26th - “Iconology: 2010 and Beyond” featuring ANCESTOR Kelan Phil Cohran

Go to www.youtube.com to view previous H3O TV programs and search Gloria Peace on tool bar.
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. Every 3rd Friday of the month.

The April Rainbow Cafe Movie “HOWL” has been cancelled but will be rescheduled in the near future.

Rainbow Cafe

Buddhist Meditation
CURRENTLY NOT MEETING
Learn and enjoy the simple, straightforward 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

Drum Circle
Cancelled
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.

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. Contact certified dance leader, Pat Segner, at 708-748-2217.

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!

YAY!! THIS GROUP IS MEETING BY PHONE

The UUCC
Men’s Group
Meets every other Tuesday night from 7-9pm at the church.
Upcoming gathering dates are Contact Colin Kirchner at colinkirchner@gmail.com
Due to the current public health crisis, we will not be meeting in-person at UUCC during this period of Governor Pritzker’s "Stay at Home Order" now extended until the end of April. Please contact the facilitator to see if any online arrangements have been made for the event of your choice. Facilitator list is at bottom of page.

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<td>5 10am Online Worship</td>
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<td>7 7pm Men's Group</td>
<td>8 1pm Daytime Connections 7pm Yoga</td>
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Event Facilitators

- **Monthly Drumming Circle:** Raegan Bricks raegan.bricks@gmail.com
- **Buddhist Meditation:** Beverly Feldt bevfeldt@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
- **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:** Jodi Libretti (312-371-4713)
Church Information
70 Sycamore Drive
Park Forest, IL  60466
Office Phone:  708-481-5339
E-Mail: churchadmin@uucpf.org
Website: www.uucpf.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.*