

# UCC Community News

MARCH 2024

Unitarian Universalist Community Church



## Sunday Worship Service 10:00am

**UCC COVID UPDATE:** The UCC Board of Trustees has lifted Covid restrictions in the church. The congregation can determine their own level of risk and any need to continue to wear a mask in public settings. The only exception to this will be when we have in-church speakers who may request that congregants wear a mask during their service. We will notify you ahead of time if this occurs.

### MARCH SUNDAY SERVICES

**March 3** Beverly Feldt

**Title:** "The G-Word"

Many Unitarian Universalists are uncomfortable with the term "God." What does this controversial word mean to you?

#### DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

**Please set your clocks ahead so you will be on time for church!**

**March 10** Mike Wolf

**Title:** "How to Work for Peace in a World at War"

Personal reflections on the struggle for justice and peace. What is our duty?

**March 17** Larry McClellan

**Title:** "St. Brigid & St. Patrick"

This day is a confluence of Women's History Month and St. Patrick's Day. So, a look at the other patron saint for Ireland, Brigid, and how the Irish and others built who we are.

**March 24** The Rev Denise D Tracy

**Title:** "Changing the World: One Woman at a Time"

International Women's Day is celebrated in March. We will explore The International Convocation of U U Women's work on empowering women.

**March 31** Richard Lewis

**Title:** "Easter, what's the Sun got to do with it?"

Readings from the growing edge of my faith, from the journey of the universe.

## SOUP KITCHEN

Fundraiser for PADS AND RESPOND NOW

**SUNDAY, MARCH 3<sup>RD</sup> AFTER SERVICE**

Join us for delicious food and caring community as we raise funds to help the homeless and those in need.

**PLEASE BRING SOUP TO SHARE**

### UU Connect Forum

The UU Connect forum ***will not*** be held in March, as its coordinator, Allan Lindrup, will be away at the UU Men's Retreat that weekend.

### Spring Equinox (Ostara) Celebration

**Saturday, March 16th**

**1:00-4:00PM**

Join Us for a family friendly event. Contact Angela Denk for details

[angeladenk@gmail.com](mailto:angeladenk@gmail.com)



### Listening Hearts

March volunteers, Chief Jensen and Darlene Obejda are available as a source for listening, support and resources.



Listening Hearts



Please follow us on [Facebook](#) for UCC event reminders.



## The President's Column March 2024 by Laurene Lambertino-Urquiza



In our last newsletter, I began exploring some of the circumstances that accompanied the Article II revisions proposed by the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). One important event was the distribution of the book, "The Gadfly Papers" by Rev. Todd Eklof at the 2019 General Assembly. This led to the "dissellowshipping" of Rev. Eklof as a Unitarian Universalist minister and the loss of potential benefits (including his retirement pension). His church, the UU Church of Spokane, Washington, however, voted to retain him under the UU policy of congregational equity and he continues to serve there today.

The full title of this book (2nd Edition) is, "The Gadfly Papers: Three Inconvenient Essays by One Pesky Minister." The essays follow, first, "The Coddling of the Unitarian Universalist Mind: How the Emerging Culture of Safetyism, Identitarianism, and Political Correctness is Reshaping America's Most Liberal Religion." Second, "I Want a Divorce: A Case for Splitting the Unitarian Universalist Association." And finally, "Let's Be Reasonable: A Rational Frame Regarding Charges of Racism and White Supremacy Within the Unitarian Universalist Association." I list these titles to both give you a sense of the topics covered and to perhaps entice some of you into reading this for yourselves.

You may ask, what is a gadfly? The term "gadfly" refers to a large fly that bites livestock, like the horsefly. But the term can also apply to an annoying person, especially one who provokes others into action by criticism. The original gadfly was Socrates, the 5th Century BCE philosopher from Athens and the originator of the dialectic method, a means of getting to truth through a series of questions meant to peel off layers of evidence, like an onion, until arriving at the inner kernel of truth. Socrates said, "The unexamined life is not worth living." His habit of searching for the truth made him unpopular with authorities at the time and he was charged with offending the gods and corrupting the youth. He was sentenced to death by drinking hemlock.

Fast forward to the 21st Century with some new gadflies. These were Russians hoping to make Russia a more open society. The first, Vladimir Kara-Murza is a Russian/British author who was imprisoned in Russia in 2022 for 25 years for simply speaking out against the war in Ukraine. The second was Alexei Navalny who died on February 16th in a Russian prison under dubious circumstances after having been a gadfly to Putin for many years. He had even been poisoned in 2020 with the Novichok nerve agent in an assassination attempt.

We have had our own problems in this country recently with denying or bending truth to suit one's needs. The term "Fake News" has become widely popular in daily parlance. We are bombarded with lies and asked to accept them as fact. One recent case that proved very costly was the Dominion Voting Systems defamation lawsuit brought against FOX News for lying to their audience about corruption in the 2020 election to support Donald Trump's claims of election tampering by the opposing party. FOX News was fined \$787.5 million dollars for their part in it.

In order for our democracy to work we must have the courage to speak the truth to those who possess power. We are morally obligated to do so. It seems that it is as important today as it has been throughout history. Unitarian Universalism was once the world's most liberal religion.

**continued**

## President's column continued

It believed that people should be free of all dogma, both religious and secular, in order for people to speak and think for themselves. Today the UUA has seriously broken their bond of supporting the elemental idea of a "free and responsible search for truth and meaning." Sadly, they chose to fixate on critical race theory as the only explanation for all of society's ills. Instead of allowing any discussion or debate of this, they cut off all possibility of an honest discussion and banished any and all who attempted to question them, like Rev. Ecklof's book. They cut themselves off from the very ministers and faithful who had devoted their entire lives to this religion in the most cruel way imaginable: disfellowship – imposed separation from the beloved community.

We can see the results of the events following the distribution of this book in 2019 by the speed of the factions that were formed thereafter. Our UU religion is already in the midst of actively splitting into various groups apart from the UUA, although they are all united by one simple fact: that truth must always be confronted, discussed, and debated openly and without reservation or censorship. This is a fundamental trait of our religion. The UUA seriously committed a grave error in their collective judgment when they first sought to prevent this.



## Honor the Spring Equinox or Ostara – March 19<sup>th</sup>

The Spring Equinox is a time when night and day are of equal length, marking the first day of spring. Pagans celebrate this holiday as Ostara or Eostre, in honor of the Germanic Goddess of spring. Legend has it that Ostara, bringer of new life, rescued an injured bird and healed it by changing it into a hare. The hare showed its appreciation by laying colored eggs for Ostara's festival. Hence, we have the origins for the story of the Easter bunny. In fact, the very word Easter, is thought to have come from the word Eostre. At this time of year, ponder the themes of balance, renewal and rebirth.



### Ways to celebrate Ostara

- 1) Practice Your Balance** – Stand between two chairs that face away from you. See how long you can stand on one foot without needing to use your hands on the chairbacks for support. Change feet and try it again. Repeat 3 times.
- 2) Plan a Garden** – The new seed catalogs are out. What will you be planting this spring? Where will you be planting? Have you bought or ordered your seeds? Do you have them started in an indoor bed? If the weather permits, do some cleanup outside in your garden plot, or scrub out of your various pots.
- 3) Talk a Nature Walk** – Pay attention to your surroundings. Are there crocuses in bloom? Are the daylilies and hostas poking up their shoots? Can you find pussy willows on the branches? What birds or animals do you hear? Awaken your senses to the awakening world.
- 4) Focus on Eggs** – What egg dishes can you concoct? Egg salad? Egg custard? Omelets? Other? Focus on this natural symbol of new beginnings with potential for new life. Enjoy your meal!



## LOOKING AHEAD TO 2023-2024

### From the UUCC 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee

The *Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Park Forest, IL* looks forward to an exciting new church year beginning this fall. To focus our future efforts, a congregational survey in the spring of 2023 asked us to prioritize our wants and needs. When the questions, created by our 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee, were answered and tallied, these priorities emerged:

1. To continue learning from diverse speakers and celebrants.
2. To make social connections with open-minded people.
3. To connect to others by sharing our location and our principles (what we believe).
4. To continue support for human service organizations.
5. To support the human services efforts of other churches and additional non-profit agencies.
6. To engage in community activities that support our members and friends.
7. To share knowledge with each other and all others with similar interests.

After our congregation reviewed these results this summer, they recommended activities for the 2023-2024 church year. We received the suggestions below: **(NOTE: Purple items have already commenced.)**

#### FOR OUR CELEBRANTS

1. Sermons on each of our 7 principles
2. Sermons on homelessness and environmental issues
3. Sermons on personal spiritual experiences, faith journeys, experiences with God, adversities/ challenges faced during faith journeys
4. More Larry McClellan/ Henrietta Byrd
5. Include varieties of vocal performers in our Sunday services

#### FOR INTERNAL SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT

5. **Music concerts featuring Chris Ussery & companion performers**
6. Small "home" dinners for fellowship development
7. Pet Day
8. BYO lunch and sit outside to converse after Sunday service
9. Congregational talent show
10. Progressive dinners
11. **Theater/ museum/ concert outings**
12. Dinners at church
13. Art night: 1) paint & sip, or 2) showcase of members' work
14. Monthly games night: 1) games like UNO, etc. 2) optional table for personal sharing

#### FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

15. Share our perspectives at various farmers' markets
16. Participate In PRIDE events
17. Monthly "Spiritual Sharing" Circle
18. Share our celebrants' sermons on YOU TUBE
19. Participate in Park Forest's Main Street Nights
20. Share flyers about UUCC
21. **Support secular home-school co-ops, as well as nature-based education programs**

#### FOR HUMAN SERVICE ORGANIZATION SUPPORT

22. **Continue food and monetary donations to PADS**
23. Engage with REVIVE
24. **Engage with HABITAT FOR HUMANITY**
25. **Support RESPOND NOW with donations, and a 4-person volunteer team**

#### FOR PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE SHARING

26. Share voice memos to an accessible electronic folder
27. Investigate/ use UUA workshop curriculums during interest group discussions
28. **Create "special interest" groups for activity sharing (crafting, gardening, etc.)**



# Connections

by Barb Anderson



Thanks to Angela Denk and Meli Faith for facilitating another children friendly Midwinter (Imbolc) Celebration at the Full Moon in February. The Spring Equinox celebration will be March 16th (Saturday) from 6 to 9PM at UUCU in the Gathering Room and outside on the Patio.

Here are some pictures from Angela:



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Reverend Denise Tracy and her husband, Bill Becker donated the money to UUCU from training about a dozen of us in Tai Chi. Here is a photo taken by Beth Brecher:

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The UUCU Rental Team, composed of Candy Allen-Smith, Virginia Jackson, Irene van der Hoek, Beryl Atchinson, Jane Troescher and Tina Clegg, have been working on things around the church to prepare it for potential rentals. You may have noticed the new lights in the parking lot? Recently, they have prepared the small office for rental, cleaned out the closet in Classroom 1, procured a new stove for the Kitchen, and are working on a new dishwasher. Virginia Jackson (our office administrator) put the old black stove on Facebook and a woman in Crete bought it. The woman donated it to Operation Charlie Bravo, a Veterans project in Crown Point IN, a non-profit organization that provides a variety of therapeutic, hands-on programs to Veterans. They will use the stove to teach cooking skills. The plan is to eventually put those skills to work to have spaghetti dinners to raise funds. A great new purpose for our old stove! Kudos to the volunteer rental team!

Diane O'Connor (UUCU Member and former Office Administrator) has a beautiful piece of Art called "Transformation" in Tall Grass Gallery in downtown Park Forest. You may want to visit the gallery to view Diane's work and many other artworks.

Here are some pictures and information about the Gallery Show:

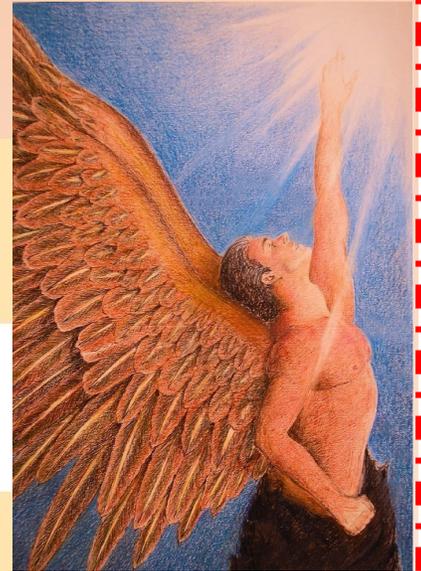


On View Now at Tall Grass:  
**WHAT THE HECK??!!**  
**Anachros, Juxtos, Implausos**

Through March 16, 2024  
Our gallery is filled with images that are bizarre,  
funny, strange, and delightful.  
Lots of impossible combinations and creations,  
amusing relationships of time, space, use, and  
jarring shifts of our usual perceptions  
and experiences.

Tall Grass Arts Association, 367 Artists Walk, Park Forest, IL 60466  
[www.tallgrassarts.org](http://www.tallgrassarts.org) 708 748 3377

Gallery Hours: Tuesday through Saturday, 11am - 4pm each day.



### Religious and Character Education Update

In the RE classroom, we will be working through the World of Wonder Curriculum, supplied by UUA tapestry of faith. "This program delves deep into our Unitarian Universalist seventh Principle. It instills respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part and appreciation of its beauty, excitement, and mystery. It is founded on the premise that direct experience in nature is essential to children's physical, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual development. Time spent experiencing and exploring our natural world begins a practice that can bring lifelong openness to the wonder nature can spark."

JOIN US on the third Sunday of each month  
3/17- Session 3- Thanks be to Trees  
4/21- Session 4- Balance in our Ecosystem  
5/19- Session 5- Habitats

Children should come ready to connect with nature, weather permitting. Play clothes, outdoor gear and shoes should be worn.



# GREEN SANCTUARY

## BY JEFF GREEN – MARCH 2024



I remember Al Gore presenting information on chocolate quite a few years ago. It has been predicted that the cocoa will not do well in global warming conditions. So far it appears that is coming true. I first saw Bloomberg publish that chocolate has been decreasing and looked for how global warming and chocolate tie in together.

Global warming will, of course, impact everyone, but it's the countries closest to the equator that have felt its effects most prominently. And since cacao trees grow best in the tropical rainforests found within 10 degrees of the equator, they're experiencing significant ecosystem change. Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, two West African countries that have historically produced around 60% of the world's cacao, have experienced increases in rainfall.

This shift in climate has resulted in inhospitably wet growing conditions for cacao trees and the ripe breeding grounds for a fungus called Phytophthora, which spreads rampantly and causes cacao pods to turn black and rot. Combined, these two problems have meant the smallest viable cacao harvests West Africa has seen in over 7 years. Climate change has also intensified the weather phenomenon El Niño, which meant that prominent exporters of sugar India and Thailand lost much of their crops to unusually dry conditions. In 2023, sugar reserves around the world hit the lowest levels seen in 14 years.

While we'd like to end on a sweeter note, the future of chocolate remains pretty bleak. In a 2023 global survey of farmers across eight countries, over 70% reported that they were already feeling the effects of global warming on their farms (via Bayer). Climate experts considering the trajectory of global warming by 2050 determined that Africa's cocoa belt will be forced to relocate its growing regions. Of the 294 possible new locations they surveyed for cacao farming under these conditions, according to NOAA, only 10.5% of them were deemed suitable for cacao cultivation.

Read More: <https://www.foodrepublic.com/1484897/world-chocolate-shortage-global-warming/>

Don't shoot me, I'm only the messenger of bad news. I have been talking climate in the comment sections now for several years and this is the first time I have noticed of having to relocate a crop because the growing conditions have changed because climate no longer supports that region crops. If you decide to notice the article talk of moving, only 10% of sites considered may work for adequate cocoa growth in 2050.

This kind of consideration is applicable for other crops in the future. Each crop will have different considerations as to whether it can be applicable to moving. Each and every one of us is impacting the earth's climate. We in our own time pick and chose when we will make the change.

Thank you for letting Green Sanctuary come into your reading experience.

Jeff Green

## Financial Update

We are now more than half-way through the fiscal year. Our pledge drive for next year will be upon us in April. Are you up-to-date on this fiscal year's pledge payments? I can provide a pledge status update if you would like one. We depend upon each other to keep the lights on, as well as keeping staff and speakers paid.



The February 5th Tai Chi workshop led by Rev. Denise Tracy and her husband Bill Decker was well attended and brought in \$180 for our Program Fund.

Nancy Irons, UUC Treasurer

## Volunteer Recognitions

Thanks go out to Irene van der Hoek and all of the Rental Team crew, who have cleaned and prepped the RCE Office for renting. This entailed not only cleaning out that room, but also sorting and organizing all of the Sunday School supplies in the RCE closets. Well done! Candy Allen-Smith generously donated a microwave cart that now sits next to our new stove in the kitchen. Thank you Candy! Appreciation goes out to everyone who volunteers as Ushers. These individuals make the first impression on new visitors, answer questions, distribute programs, provide literature, nametags and also collect and process the offering each week. Thank you all!

## Volunteer Opportunities!

There are many interesting tasks that need attention. Would you like to help?

Are you willing to commit to a Sunday or two each month? We need Ushers and Greeters, Zoom hosts and Sexton setup assistance. Please get involved! Contact Marilyn Ragland ([mexmasrag@aol.com](mailto:mexmasrag@aol.com)) for details on the Sexton team; Joyce Sligar ([jsligar02@gmail.com](mailto:jsligar02@gmail.com)) for Ushers and Greeters; and Jodi Libretti ([jlibretti@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jlibretti@sbcglobal.net)) for the Zoom hosts.

We also need volunteers who are willing to help with setup, cleanup and to be on-hand for rentals. We need hospitable people to encourage and enable success of our rentals to help fund the church. Do you prefer handi-person work? Furnace filters for all three furnaces need to be changed seasonally. Books on the shelves in the Gathering Room need to be arranged and tidied regularly. A shelf in one of the kitchen cabinets needs to be repaired and rehung. There are lots of opportunities to help beautify and maintain our building! Please get involved. Adopt a spot or task that you will be responsible for.

Please contact with the office (708-481-5339 or [churchadmin@uuccpf.org](mailto:churchadmin@uuccpf.org)) for more information or to arrange access to the building and supplies.

## ATTENTION!

The **Multi UU Church Environmental Book Club** has existed for about two years, meeting monthly via Zoom. Members of Beverly Unitarian Church, the UU Community Church in Park Forest, and First Unitarian Church of Chicago have been participating, but as we have lost a couple members in recent months due to death and serious illness we are hoping to reach other UUs who are concerned about the environment, who might wish to join our group. This book club now meets on the **third Monday evening of each month, starting at 7 p.m.,** with sessions lasting 75 to 90 minutes.

If you would like to participate please contact Allan Lindrup at [uusj@sbcglobal.net](mailto:uusj@sbcglobal.net) or you can leave a voice message at 773-595-4921, providing your name, your congregation, and clearly providing your email.

# What's Happening at UUCC?



Fundraiser for **PADS** (Public Action to Deliver Shelter) AND **RESPOND NOW**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 3<sup>RD</sup> AFTER SERVICE**

Join us for delicious food and caring community as we raise funds to help the homeless and those in need.

**PLEASE BRING SOUP TO SHARE**

Donations for **PADS** (Public Action to Deliver Shelter) and **RESPOND NOW** are appreciated. Make checks out to **UUCC** with **SOUP KITCHEN** on the memo line.

**PLEASE BE GENEROUS IF YOU CAN**

## **UUCC Men's Group** **Sunday, March 3rd 6:30 to 8 PM**

UUCC Men's Group now meets MONTHLY on the **FIRST SUNDAY evening from 6:30 to 8 pm** via Zoom. After in-depth check-ins those in attendance will watch 3 short YouTube videos related to the noosphere, with discussion after each one. If you identify as male and are not on group's list of regulars, you can join by contacting Allan Lindrup at [uusj@sbcglobal.net](mailto:uusj@sbcglobal.net) or 773-595-4921.



## **Do you love stitching? Tuesday March 5th at 10:00 AM**

Join us on **FIRST TUESDAY of the month from 10am-noon** at UUCC classroom 3. Do you like to knit, and want to run some thoughts across others? Do you like to crochet, but want something new and not sure where to look? Do you quilt but need somewhere quiet to really get into your craft? Whether you knit, crochet, cross stitch, needlepoint, quilt, or any other hand stitch craft that you enjoy, let's get together to craft, talk and mingle.

For more information contact **Karen Beran 708-532-6024**

## **UUCC Connections Small Group** **Thursday, March 14th 1:00-2:30 pm**

Join this small group so we can connect and share to get to know one another. The group meets on the **SECOND THURSDAY** each month in person at UUCC with the option of joining via Zoom. Questions? Contact Irene van der Hoek at [tulip51girl@gmail.com](mailto:tulip51girl@gmail.com)

## Multi-UU Church Environmental Book Club Monday, March 18th from 7 to about 8:30 p.m. via Zoom

We are hoping to reach other UUs who are concerned about the environment, who might wish to join our group. The group will be discussing the last two chapters plus Conclusion of All Hell Breaking Loose: The Pentagon's Perspective on Climate. Following that the group will discuss books it may wish to read next and then vote which one it will be. Anyone wishing to join this book club, please contact Allan Lindrup at [uusj@sbcglobal.net](mailto:uusj@sbcglobal.net) or 773-595-4921.



### A Moment in Balance weekly Yoga Classes by Karen Nielsen at UCC 70 Sycamore Dr. Park Forest

Monday & Thursday 9:30 – 11am

Wednesday evenings 7:00 – 8:30pm

This class is for everyone, beginner to experienced.  
No reservations needed. Drop-in fee is \$10 per class.  
Call Karen (708) 755-3577



Photo by [Mohamed Nohassi](#) on [Unsplash](#)

## Buddhist Meditation

Saturdays at 9am -10:30am

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

**Location:** Online

**Cost:** Free will offering

**Contact:** Steve McCabe [steve.mccabe6914@gmail.com](mailto:steve.mccabe6914@gmail.com)

### The Unitarian Universalist Multiracial Unity Action Council

UUMUAC Monthly **Third Wednesday** Worship Service at 7:00 pm Central Time

For Zoom information, please send name, email, and congregation (if any)  
to [richard3point@gmail.com](mailto:richard3point@gmail.com)

For past services, type "Third Wednesday UUMUAC services" in the YouTube search box.

### Hail Ostara

Hail Ostara, eastward arising,  
Laughing goddess, Lady of Light

To dawn, dominion over darkness  
Thy glory has granted, gone is the  
night!

Let Thy light's illumination  
Banish sorrow, blessings bring,  
Grant success, and a good season  
To those who seek thee here this spring!



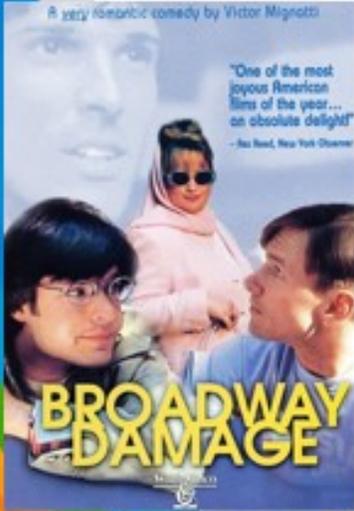
*Spring-time sweet!  
The whole Earth smiles, thy  
coming to greet.*

*Seed of what I wish to be:  
Grow and bud and bloom in me.*

*Spring is nature's way of say-  
ing, "Let's party!"  
- Robin Williams (1951-2014)*

# RAINBOW CAFE

Rainbow Cafe will meet on Friday, March 15th, 2023.  
Doors to the church open around 6:30 pm. The film starts  
around 7:00 pm. Soft drinks and snacks are served.



## "Broadway Damage"

**Synopsis:** in an age when cynicism is considered cool, New York City is the perfect backdrop for three determined friends attempting to take the town by storm. Marc dreams of that big Broadway break, songwriter Robert dreams of Marc, and shopaholic Cynthia dreams of landing her fantasy job — at the top. When reality intervenes, the fun begins in this delightful tale of unrequited love and relentless optimism.

Rainbow Café is a social event that provides a welcoming and safe environment for single or partnered gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender adults, and their allies. Group is open to anyone regardless of their sexual orientation.

We meet every third Friday at 7PM to watch a LGBTQ film.

Join the discussion after the film.

Invite friends!

Optional - bring snacks to share.



Unitarian Universalist Community Church  
70 Sycamore Drive, Park Forest, IL 60466  
708-481-5339      uuccpf.org



# LGBTQ

Welcoming Congregation



## WE LOVE OUR NEIGHBORS

**IMMIGRANT LGBTQ**

**OF COLOR WITH DISABILITIES**

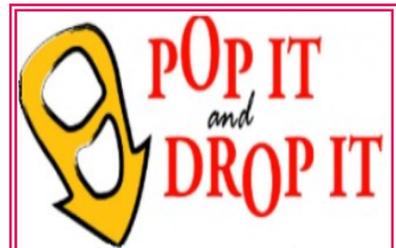
**OF ALL AND ANY FAITHS**

UUA.ORG/IMAGES



## Help Support Ronald McDonald House Charities

The Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana Ronald McDonald House strives to keep families together when children are hospitalized. In this region, their facilities can accommodate 177 families each night, providing food and shelter at comfortable locations close to their hospitalized children. Reverend Denise Tracy supports this organization and asks that you do too. Please collect and bring in the aluminum pop top tabs from your drink cans. There is a pop tab collection jar in the UUCC kitchen where they can be deposit-



**Men's Retreat 2024 Registration.** Send us your Name, address, phone #, preferred e-mail address and intention for Full Retreat (Fri.~ Sun.) or Sat. only. (Send to email listed in the below flyer). We will register you.

Payment: Once registered you have 2 choices.  
 Option 1. We can arrange a phone call and we will process your credit card.  
 Option 2. You can send a check to:  
 UTUUC, 1019 South Blvd., Oak Park, IL 60302.  
 Payable to UTUUC, Note: mark memo "Men's Retreat".

**UU MEN'S RETREAT**

**Where:** Baraga/St. Mary's Retreat House, 14230 Main St. Lemont IL, [60439](#) · (630) 257-5102

**When:** Fri. Mar. 8<sup>th</sup> (7 PM) thru Sun. Mar. 10<sup>th</sup> (Noon), 2024

**Theme: Being a Male Today.** We will explore the changing roles and self-images facing males today. Welcoming all who identify as male. Welcoming all faiths.

**Keynote Speaker: Paul B. Koch, Jr.,** M.Div. D.Min. Regional Minister, Christian Church of Mid-America will deliver his address: Men's Responses to Gender-attributed Power.

In addition to discussions there is to be a Wilderness Walk, Chair Yoga, Drumming, Board Games, Open Mic time and a **Friday Night Pizza Party!** Come hungry for food and fellowship!

**Cost: Full retreat \$160 and includes a single room, two nights, three meals Saturday and breakfast Sunday.**

**Saturday Day Only Participation For \$55— Limited Number (Includes 3 meals)**

Deposit of \$20. Full payment needed by Friday, Mar. 1<sup>st</sup>. [Registration Link Here.](#) **Note:** Scholarships available! If you cannot afford the Retreat Fee, or have any questions please contact us at [mensretreat@unitytemple.org](mailto:mensretreat@unitytemple.org) or call 708-383-3734.

Committee Members: Mark Johansen, Rich Pokorny, Alan Johnson, Allan Lindrup, August Staas, Nai Owens, Ralph Earlandson, Richard Pardo, Robert Innocenzi and Ron Dubreuil.

Lauren's Birthday  
 Collective Music & Dance  
 (Fundraiser)

**MUSICAL PERFORMANCES**  
**Fenix Divine**  
 GUIDED MEDITATION

**@BOBBY MCGREAL & FRIENDS @GINAMAYA**

Bring a potluck dish if you'd like  
 \$15 if bring one  
 Love Donation \$22

**SATURDAY MARCH 30**  
**4:30 PM**  
**ECSTATIC DANCE**  
**7:15 PM**

Homemade organic Candles  
 Cleaning Products  
 Deodorants  
 Lip balms  
 Pain relief bars  
 Salves  
 Vapo rubs  
 Wound healer +

Unitarian Church  
 70 Sycamore Drive  
 Park Forest, IL 60466

**MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

In an effort to keep UUCC Members informed, meeting minutes are available on the bulletin board and can be emailed or mailed to any UUCC member who requests them. Please contact the office 708-481-5339 or email [churchadmin@uuccpf.org](mailto:churchadmin@uuccpf.org)



**Help Send Paloma Abroad this Summer!**

Paloma Furst Chavira, our very own violin prodigy, will be collaborating with Rev. Denise Tracy to provide a fantastic musical Sunday service in May. Paloma is currently working to raise funds for a summer tour abroad, where she will take lessons and play concerts.

It has been proposed that members of UUCC help sponsor this tour. If you are willing to contribute, please make your check out to UUCC with Paloma in the memo line. This will count as a tax-deductible contribution to UUCC. Please have your contributions in by the end of April. Rev. Tracy plans to present Paloma with an award check from UUCC at the May service. If you have questions, Treasurer, Nancy Irons can provide additional information.





# Chris Vallillo

## Sat March 9th, 7:30pm

Award winning songwriter & guitarist

Roots based original and contemporary folk with the rich acoustic textures of bottleneck slide, finger style and flatpicked guitars that echo the influences of Mississippi John Hurt, Ry Cooder, Doc Watson and John Fahey. A recipient of a 1986 Illinois Arts Council Artist Fellowship Award for music composition, Chris was also a nominee for the Illinois Arts Council's 1987 Governor's Award for Individual Artist. A full time touring artist since 1979, he has also been involved in a variety of other projects over the years. In the 1980's he conducted the Schuyler Arts Folk Music Project, designed to document the last of the pre-radio generation in Rural Western Illinois. In 2001 he carried out the field work for the Illinois Arts Council's **Illinois Mississippi River Valley Project**, designed to document artists along the Mississippi River. From 1990-1997 Vallillo was host and co-producer of the award winning nationally syndicated public radio series **Rural Route 3**. Since 1989, he has produced the Hickory Ridge Concert Series and is the Artistic Director of the Hickory Ridge Roots Music Festival in conjunction with the Dickson Mounds



**Unitarian Universalist  
Community Church**

**\$15 Cover**

70 Sycamore, Park Forest, IL  
708-481-5339



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						2 9am Online Buddhist Meditation 9am Flowering Dogwood Martial Arts
3 10am Worship Soup Kitchen Potluck  6:30pm Men's Group	4 9:30am Yoga	5 10:00am Stitchery Group	6   7:00pm Yoga	7 9:30am Yoga 3pm PADS Team 7pm Flowering Dogwood Martial Arts	8	9 9am Online Buddhist Meditation 9am Flowering Dogwood Martial Arts  7:30pm Edgar's Place presents Chris Vallillo
10 10am Worship  <b>Daylight Savings Time</b>	11 9:30am Yoga	12	13   7:00pm Yoga	14 9:30am Yoga 1pm Connections Group  7pm Flowering Dogwood Martial Arts	15   7pm Rainbow Café	16 9am Online Buddhist Meditation 9am Flowering Dogwood Martial Arts  1PM Ostara Spring Equinox Celebration
17 10am Worship	18 9:30am Yoga  7pm Environmental Book Club	19 <b>ELECTION VOTE!</b> 7pm Board Meeting	20   7:00pm Yoga 7pm UUMUAC online Worship Service	21 9:30am Yoga  7pm Flowering Dogwood Martial Arts	22	23 9am Online Buddhist Meditation  9am Flowering Dogwood Martial Arts
24 10am Worship  31 <b>EASTER</b> 	25 9:30am Yoga	26	27   7:00pm Yoga	28 9:30am Yoga  3pm PADS Team 7pm Flowering Dogwood Martial Arts	29	30 9am Online Buddhist Meditation 9am Flowering Dogwood Martial Arts  4:30 Ecstatic Dance Party

### Event Facilitators

Buddhist Meditation:	Steve McCabe	<a href="mailto:steve.mccabe6914@gmail.com">steve.mccabe6914@gmail.com</a>
Yoga:	Karen Nielsen	708-755-3577 <a href="mailto:shanti-one@comcast.net">shanti-one@comcast.net</a>
Rainbow Café:	Charles Barnett	708-843-2005 <a href="mailto:chazbarnett@yahoo.com">chazbarnett@yahoo.com</a>
Forum:	Allan Lindrup	773-595-4921 <a href="mailto:uusj@sbcglobal.net">uusj@sbcglobal.net</a>
UU Environmental Book Club:	Allan Lindrup	773-595-4921 <a href="mailto:uusj@sbcglobal.net">uusj@sbcglobal.net</a>
Edgar's Place:	Dave Rudolf	<a href="mailto:daverudolf50@gmail.com">daverudolf50@gmail.com</a>
Connections Group:	Irene van der Hoek	708-305-4913 <a href="mailto:tulip51girl@gmail.com">tulip51girl@gmail.com</a>
Men's Group:	Allan Lindrup	773-595-4921 <a href="mailto:uusj@sbcglobal.net">uusj@sbcglobal.net</a>
Stitchery Group:	Karen Beran	708-532-6024 <a href="mailto:greywolf2496@hotmail.com">greywolf2496@hotmail.com</a>

Call the church office Mon. - Fri. 10:00am - 10:00pm with questions, to schedule a rental, or to make an appointment to view the building. 708-481-5339

# Get involved, get supported, support others.

<https://sidewithlove.org/>



—CREATE—  
CLIMATE JUSTICE



LOVE  
*RESISTS*



**SIDE WITH LOVE**  
**FALL 2023 SKILL UP SERIES**  
**SUMMONING COURAGE**

- Oct 15: Risk Discernment for Congregations
- Nov 19: Faith Out Loud
- Jan 21: Community Safety & Security

**SIDE WITH LOVE**  
monthly mixer

2nd Monday of every Month  
5pm PT • 6pm MT • 7pm CT • 8pm ET

**Faithful GROUNDING**

monthly virtual gathering  
4th Thursday of the month  
4:30 PT • 5:30 MT • 6:30 CT • 7:30 ET

an hour of spiritual sustenance and grounding with others organizing on the side of love

## Faithful Gathering

Join our Side with Love Fun & Spiritual Nourishment Squad for an hour of spiritual sustenance and grounding with others organizing on the side of love.

Show up as you are, with whatever is in your heart, and have your camera on or off as you need. Come drink in the music, meditation, play, and prayer. We end with a Connection Cafe for those who wish to talk together.

**Church Information**

70 Sycamore Drive  
Park Forest, IL 60466  
Office Phone: 708-481-5339  
E-Mail: churchadmin@uuccpf.org  
Website: www.uuccpf.org

**(Please contact the church office 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.***



Visit us on the web @ [www.uuccpf.org](http://www.uuccpf.org)

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