UUCC Community News AUGUST 2024



Unitarian Universalist Community Church

Sunday Worship Service 10:00am

UUCC COVID UPDATE: The UUCC 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.

AUGUST SUNDAY SERVICES

Aug 4 Speaker: Leanne Mull

Title: The Little Red Hen and Other Life

Lessons

I always thought that the Little Red Hen was about not wanting help, as an adult I realize that I was reading it all wrong! Hear about the realization that it is not only ok to ask for help, it is ok to admit that you need help!

Aug 11 Speaker: Patricia Hofmann Title: The Ouiet Activism of Grace

Our world is broken. But how can we as individuals even hope to repair it? Calling all conflict-averse crusaders, reluctant reformers and almost-hopeless healers. Don't give up - sign up!

Activism may be simpler and more spiritual than you think...and more powerful than you

imagine.

Aug 18 Speaker: Rev. Denise Tracy Title: Burning with Life: Margaret Fuller The Editor of the Transcendentalist newspaper The Dial, Fuller was considered the brightest, most beautiful woman of her day.

Aug 25 Speaker: Rev. Henrietta Byrd

Title: TBA



First Sunday Potluck August 4th after worship



At UUCC, the first Sunday of each month after wor-

service we share a potluck luncheon. Join us for this

UU Connect Forum

The Forum is on break for the summer and will return in September.

UUCC Men's Group

The UUCC Men's Group will have a potluck and summer social on **Sunday, Aug. 11**, starting about an hour after the Worship Service ends, at the home of Bruce Swiecicki. Men who have not been active with the group are welcome to join us. Men are asked to contact Allan Lindrup (at uusj@sbcglobal.net or, after Aug. 2, at 773-595-4921) in advance, for information on location and to coordinate what they might bring to the potluck.



Listening Hearts

August volunteers, Barbara Morris and Richard Lewis, are available as a source for listening, support and resources.

Listening Hearts

Please follow us on Facebook for UUCC event reminders.



The President's Column August 2024 by Laurene Lambertino-Urquizo



"The most controversial thing that I witnessed during this GA were the discussions concerning LBGTQ+ rights and the Jewish/Palestinian war." I wrote that sentence in my newsletter article last month relating my experiences of watching the 2024 GA through Zoom. I was unaware at the time that I had committed a faux pas but my dear friend, Bev Feldt, sent me a message alerting me that I had done so, and in the gentlest way she corrected me. And

then, of course, I immediately realized my mistake. Yes, of course, it is not the Jewish/Palestinian war, it is the Israeli/Palestinian war. What was I thinking??

So, this month I wanted to take this opportunity to publicly apologize to Bev, my Jewish friends, and our congregation for my mistake. I asked Bev for her input as to how I could turn this into a learning opportunity, and she very graciously agreed. In fact, she wrote such an intelligent and remarkable explanation that I wanted to share it with you in its entirety. And so here it is...

Who Are Jews?

By Bev Feldt

Do all Jews support Israel? What do Jews believe? Are they a religious group, a race, a culture? These are some of the questions I've been asked as a member of the 2.4% of the American population who are Jewish.

Jewish identity is a complicated matter.

Some Jews identify as religious. They may belong to a synagogue in one of the four main branches of Judaism (Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, and Reconstructionist) and follow at least some of the 613 Torah commandments, including observing the Sabbath and the Jewish holidays, keeping kosher, giving charity (called tzedakah, meaning justice), and saying prayers with others and alone.

Religious Judaism is about these practices, not about beliefs. Concepts like "being saved" and "true belief" are Christian and have nothing to do with the Jewish religion. At Judaism's heart is a covenant with a singular God, but there are even observant Jews who say they are atheists.

Then there are secular Jews, who probably represent the majority of Jewish Americans. They identify as Jewish because of family ties, history, genetics, and cultural affinity. Jews see themselves as a people, not just a religious group. In this age of identity, many are rediscovering their roots, just like other Americans. For some, this means taking on religious practice; for others, enjoying Jewish literature, food, music, and other cultural values. All consider themselves Jewish, as I do.

Jews, like all groups of people, have a wide range of opinions about everything, including Israel. (A famous Yiddish saying translates as "Two Jews, three opinions.") Some feel that Israel is the true Jewish home and long to live there. Others feel no connection. And there are many positions in between.

"Jewish" is not a synonym for "Israeli"! Not all Jews support Israel, and even many of those who do also detest the current Israeli administration and its policies, including the war in Gaza. It is NOT a "Jewish war," any more than Putin's invasion of Ukraine is a "Christian war." Should we attack students of Russian Orthodox faith in American universities because of Ukraine? American Jews, even those who support Israel, are no more responsible than any other Americans for the crisis in the Middle East.

continued

President's Column (cont.)

And, yes, it matters that we make this distinction. Anti-semitism, which Jews have suffered from for two thousand years, is once again on the rise in the United States. The identification of Jews in general with the war crimes of a foreign country is bad thinking and even worse humanity.

Sadly, the mental structure for hating Jews is ingrained in all of Western culture; here in America, its stereotypes and libels are springing up once again. And please do not forget that generations of Jews have been scarred by the Holocaust, pogroms, and expulsions over centuries. This is serious business.

So no, it's not a "Jewish/Palestinian war." It's not an "Israeli/Muslim war," either.

We are witnessing the latest awful phase of the long sad mess in the Middle East, where it seems there should be room for everyone, somehow. It's hard to see things clearly from so far away. There are lots of wrongs on both sides, and lots of rights, too. People are suffering, and slogans won't help them.

Volunteer Recognitions

Thanks go out to Darlene Obejda, Joyce Semmler, Beryl Atchison, Barry Vronay and all who help with the coffee hour setup and cleanup.

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) for details on the Sexton team; Joyce Sligar (jsligar02@gmail.com) for Ushers and Greeters; and Jodi Libretti (jlibretti@sbcglobal.net) for the Zoom hosts.

We also need volunteers who are willing to help with set-up, 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. There are also lots of opportunities to help beautify and maintain our building and grounds! 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) for more information or to arrange access to the building and supplies.



WANTED: Exterior Painter for UUCC

Do you know someone who does **exterior painting**? UUCC needs someone to power wash our exterior and then apply fresh coats of paint. Please send your suggestions to the office 708-481-5339 or email churchadmin@uuccpf.org

Financial Update

Officially, the 2023-2024 fiscal year is over. Did you complete your pledge? If you need an update on your pledge status, just ask me!

For this new year, do you have a fundraising idea that you would like to implement? Please talk to me or others to get the ball rolling. Do you have handi-person talent that would save us the cost of hiring someone? Just let us know what you would be willing to take care of. We would love to hear suggestions on how to keep costs down and income up. Thank you for your contributions!

Nancy Irons, UUCC Treasurer





Memorial for Suzie Brown, September 11th at UUCC Service from 1:00-2:30pm



Suzie Brown, a longtime member of UUCC, passed away on June 14th in Eugene, Oregon. Suzie and her husband Jim raised their two children, Lynn and Bruce in Park Forest, IL. She was active in League of Women Voters, the 50th Anniversary Celebration of Park Forest, as well as participating in electoral campaigns, and recording oral histories of World War II veterans. Suzie had a 24-year career as an elementary school teacher, specializing in reading. Suzie was curious about the world and was an avid traveler. In 2008, Suzie was inducted into the Park Forest Hall of Fame. In 2015 after a diagnosis of Parkinson's disease, Suzie moved to Eugene Oregon to be close to her daughter. There will be a memorial service in honor of Suzie Brown at the Unitarian Universalist Community

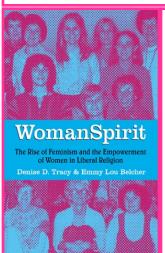
service in honor of Suzie Brown at the Unitarian Universalist Community Church (70 Sycamore, Park Forest, IL 60466) on Wednesday, September 11th. Please send donations to the Parkinson's Foundation, www.parkinson.org

Obituary: https://www.enewspf.com/latest-news/obituary-suzie-nelda-suzanne-brown/

~~~~ RECOMMENDED READING ~~~~~

The number of women serving as ministers in North American Unitarian Universalist congregations grew from less than 1% to almost 50% between 1970 and 1990. In this important book Denise Tracy and Emmy Lou Belcher tell how this change came to be.

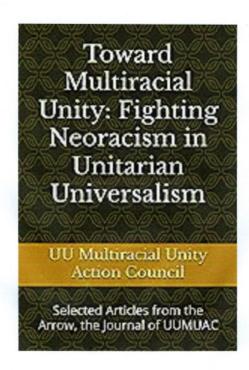
WomanSpirit



WomanSpirit is a collection of twenty essays by extraordinary Unitarian Universalists who illuminate their journey of empowerment and evolution. It's a tribute to their dream of a more inclusive, equitable future—and, in doing so, reshaped the very fabric of the denomination.

Price: \$24.95 Pages: 396 Available for purchase on Amazon and InSpirit Bookstore

We believe that the way to promote multiracial unity in UU congregations, and elsewhere, is to LIVE the Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism. We are dismayed to see that our Association of congregations is being taken over by an ideology of neoracism. The articles in this book will help UUs understand this issue better.



258 pages. Available from Amazon, \$15.

To order multiple copies at a discounted price, contact us: UUMUAC@gmail.com



Connections by Barb Anderson



Barb is on vacation and will return with a column in September

Feb Sky (Phil Cooper and Susan Urban)



Dave Bartlett



The woman (twigs for hair) sculpture is from the Morton Arboretum in Lisle IL.



The Bradley House (Frank Lloyd Wright) is on the banks of the Kankakee River.





Potluck pasta salad with nasturtium flowers



GREEN SANCTUARY BY JEFF GREEN - AUGUST 2024



When it comes to charging your car, are there going to be car chargers where you need them. A little story I am going to tell is when my brother and I brought my aunt's house back to life after she passed away. If you look down in the bottom right-hand corner, you will notice my hometown of Frankfort. My aunt's house is

in the opposite side of the state in the northwest corner of Illinois. There is a little blue and red 355 right next to Frankfort on the map. I would take 355 north up to route 90 and head into Rockford in the middle of the state. According to google maps it's 113 miles to Rockford. There is a charger in the mall where I pull in and hook up my 2015 Tesla Model S to it. Use the bathroom at the grocery store, buy a small bag of popcorn and walk back to my car mostly charged up. Wait a little more and off to Elizabeth Illinois. Notice route 20 at the bottom of Rockford Illinois. That is my road to Elizabeth which is about 75 more miles to go. This small town of 695 was my home for the next 5 to 7 days before I headed back home to Frankfort. My brother who is a retired electrician, set up the charging chord from aunt's basement, through the basement door out the back porch window. There I tied in my charger to charge my car back up to 80% full.

As you can see, the fast chargers are few and far between in northwest Illinois. This is where I grew up during the 60s and 70s in my hometown of Stockton. Stockton is in between Rockford and Dubuque. There are many lower-level chargers that I have excluded from the map. For me it's like crossing the fast-charging desert. Having a gas car in the family works for me in that sometimes my Tesla runs too close to the limits for me to be comfortable driving there. But for Elizabeth and back, I had access to all my destination points.



https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2024-07-19/trump-vow-to-drill-baby-drill-collides-with-industry-caution

Green Sanctuary continued

US Public EV Chargers Set to Surpass Gas Stations in Eight Years

The US added about 700 new public fast-charging stations for electric cars in the second quarter, bringing the nationwide total to nearly 9,000.

When I started out in my first EV of 64-mile range, it was affordable, and I could learn as I go. If I needed longer range, I would trade over to gas. Now you can see the projection by Bloomberg chargers will surpass gas stations in 8 years. I'm quite sure this is due to the law passed by Biden in the inflation reduction act (IRA). When we get the rural areas filled with EV chargers, the EV transition will reach a new level of acceptance by the public.

Transitions take time. Looking ahead is quite wise in this case. In the Chicago suburbs, I can drive anywhere I want to go with complete confidence I can get a fast charge somewhere. Out in the rural areas with my wife in tow, as long as I have my destination chargers in place, (brother helps me with this), I'm good. Beyond that, I will stick to happy wife, happy life, and go with gas.

I want to thank everyone for letting me into your reading time and pleasure. Jeff Green



The **POSITIVITY PROJECT** has gotten wonderful feedback from participants. They have lots of interesting plans for future meetings. Come check it out, it may just change your life.

A Positivity Project

Are you feeling overwhelmed by negative news?

Feeling like it's hard to find a bright spot in the day?

Come join folks who are sharing positive experiences and ways to see our world in a more satisfying light. Enjoy a provided soft beverage and spend a short time in meditation as we send out our most loving and healing intentions to the planet and its inhabitants.

When: 1st & 3rd Monday of the month, 6:30-7:30 pm, door open at 6

Where: UUCC, 70 Sycamore Dr., Park Forest, IL

No need to reserve your space. All are welcome, come if you can.

For more information: Michele Johnson 708-748-0362

This is an independent offering, not affiliated with the church. They are our gracious host.

What's Happening at UUCC?



Tuesday, August 6th at 11 am

This group meets the <u>FIRST TUESDAY of the month from 11:00am-noon</u> 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 Men's Group

The UUCC Men's Group will have a pot luck and summer social on **Sunday, Aug. 11**, starting about an hour after the Worship Service ends, at the home of Bruce Swiecicki. Men who have not been active with the group are welcome to join us. Men are asked to contact Allan Lindrup (at uusj@sbcglobal.net or, after Aug. 2, at 773-595-4921) in advance, for information on location and to coordinate what they might bring to the pot luck.

The UUCC Men's Group will resume regular meetings in September or October.

UUCC CONNECTIONS SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

No Connections group in August.

The Connections will start up again on **THURSDAY**, **September 12th at 1-2:30pm**. Beginning **in OCTOBER we will meet on the <u>2ND WEDNESDAY</u>** of each month going forward.

We will meet in person at the church with an option to join via Zoom. All participants will receive an email with the topic information and the Zoom link ahead of each meeting.

The Connections conversations are offered as a way to get to know each other better, as we explore various topics. The topics we choose relate to our life experiences, questions, joys and challenges. Participants are free to share their thoughts and feelings, joys and struggles, as they choose. The group is there to listen, to share with and care about each other. The Connections group is NOT a therapy group. All are welcome! If you would like to join us, please contact the facilitator, Irene van der Hoek at: Cell 708/305-4913 or email tulip51girl@gmail.com



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

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

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

Family Friendly Celebrations at UUCC



The First Harvest is here!

There are two words for this celebration: Lammas and Lughnasadh.

Lammas comes from Old English and basically means "loaf mass."

Lughnasadh is an old Gaelic word that means "Lugh's feast."

No matter what you call it, it's a day for celebration.

Our celebration takes place **Friday night**, **August 2nd**, at UUCC in Park Forest. Here's a <u>LINK</u> to the online event, if you haven't already seen it. We'll gather for crafting corn dollies and socializing at 6 p.m. Ritual begins promptly at 7 p.m., and it's followed by a potluck meal. We hope to see you all there!

Here's a little music to enjoy for the holiday. Blessed be!

JOIN THE CELEBRATION FRIDAY SEPT 13 AT 6PM



The apples are ripe, and sunlight is fleeting. The air carries a chill. Autumn woods call us to come see the show of the leaves before the trees shed them. Second harvest is here!

On Friday, September 13, Sylvan Sanctuary CUUPS will host a celebration of Mabon, the second harvest of the Wheel of the Year. Beginning at 6 p.m. and ending at 9 p.m., the event will feature a social hour and craft from 6 until 7, an outdoor ritual with fire at approximately 7 p.m. (weather permitting), and a potluck harvest feast to follow immediately after the ritual.

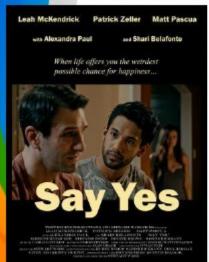
Those who plan to attend are asked to bring a savory or sweet dish to share (maybe something featuring apples, onions, pumpkin or other squash!) and a personal non-alcoholic beverage of their choice. Those with gardens are encouraged to bring something they've grown to share; be it flowers to display or something to eat.

Email mailto: <u>sylvansanctuarycuups@gmail.com</u> for additional information.

RAINBOW-CAFE

Rainbow Cafe will meet on Friday, August 16th, 2024

Doors to the church open around 6:30 pm. The film starts around 7:00 pm. Soft drinks and snacks are served.



"Say Yes"

Synopsis:

"Say Yes" is a feature film about a woman dying of cancer who encourages her husband and twin brother to continue as a romantic couple after her death. The movie asks whether a straight guy can really fall in love with another man.





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



4th International Convocation of UU Women and People of Progressive Faiths

A warm welcome to Transylvania, the birthplace of Unitarianism! September 5–8, 2024 in Cluj-Napoca/Kolozsvár, Romania

Theme: "Weaving a Tapestry of Peace and New Perspectives"

Connect – Collaborate – Create

Join us this September in Kolozsvár for the 4th Convocation to connect with U/Us worldwide as we build community, a collective voice, and strong and effective partnerships toward a more equitable, peaceful, and sustainable future! The Convocation will focus on the collective need for peace within ourselves and in our communities as we search for ways to respond to intersecting global crises and uncertainties. The event will also be an opportunity to determine how to be more effective changemakers, weaving our own threads of equity into a tapestry of a peaceful and sustainable tomorrow.



A Moment in Balance weekly Yoga Classes by Karen Nielsen at UUCC 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

ATTENTION! Are you concerned about the environment? Join the Multi UU Church Environmental Book Club on Monday, Aug. 19, starting at 7 p.m., via Zoom

This book club meets the **THIRD MONDAY EACH MONTH.** This month we will be reading and discussing the first part of a new book - *The Weight of Nature: How a Changing Climate Changes Our Brains* by Clayton Page Aldern. Individuals who would like to join this book club are asked to contact Allan Lindrup, after Aug. 2, at uusj@sbcglobal.net or 773-595-4921.









Flowering Dogwood Martial Arts Way at UUCC Tuesday & Thursday at 7:00 PM AND Saturday at 9:00 AM

Details

Rob Dillon of Flowering Dogwood Martial Arts Way invites you to join in an exploration of Japanese swordspersonship, Japan's oldest surviving martial art. The Tenshin Shoden Katori Shinto Ryu (ryu is a "school") was founded in the 15th Century!

Discover how a martial practice may become an art of peace, of self-expression, social engagement, and a "way to go" towards whole-person fitness. No experience necessary.

About:



Robert W. Dillon, Jr., Ph.D. is Professor Emeritus and Founding Faculty, Department of Theatre and Dance, Holland School of Visual and Performing Arts, Southeast Missouri State University. In 2021 Rob moved to University Park, Illinois, to be closer to his adult children. There he founded Flowering Dogwood Martial Arts Way to continue his 50-year journey of martial arts study, scholarship, practice, and sharing-in-teaching. Contact Rob at 573-579-0646 for information.



AUGUST 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
HIATUS NO MEN'S GROUP OR CONNEC- TIONS THIS MONTH				1 9:30am Yoga 3pm PADS team 7pm Flowering Dogwood Martial Arts	6pm Lammas CUUPS Harvest Celebration	3 9am Online Buddhist Medita- tion 9am Flowering Dogwood Martial Arts
4 10am Worship First Sunday Potluck	5 9:30am Yoga 6pm Positivity Project	6 11:00am Stitchery Group 7pm Flowering Dogwood Martial Arts	7 7pm Yoga	8 9:30am Yoga 7pm Flowering Dogwood Martial Arts	9	10 9am Online Buddhist Medita- tion 9am Flowering Dogwood Martial Arts
11 10am Worship NO FORUM	12 9:30am Yoga	7pm Flowering Dogwood Martial Arts	14 7pm Yoga	15 9:30am Yoga 7pm Flowering Dogwood Martial Arts	7pm Rainbow Café (doors open at 6:30, film at 7:00)	17 9am Online Buddhist Medita- tion 9am Flowering Dogwood Martial Arts
18 10am Worship	19 9:30am Yoga 6pm Positivity Project 7pm Environmental Book Club (Zoom)	7pm Board Meeting 7pm Flowering Dogwood Martial Arts	21 7pm Yoga 7pm UUMUAC online Worship Service	22 9:30am Yoga 7pm Flowering Dogwood Martial Arts	23	24 9am Online Buddhist Medita- tion 9am Flowering Dogwood Martial Arts
25 10am Worship	26 9:30am Yoga	7pm Flowering Dogwood Martial Arts	28 7pm Yoga	29 9:30am Yoga 7pm Flowering Dogwood Martial Arts	30	31 9am Online Buddhist Medita- tion 9am Flowering Dogwood Martial Arts

Event Facilitators

Buddhist Meditation: Steve McCabe <u>steve.mccabe6914@gmail.com</u>

Yoga: Karen Nielsen 708-755-3577 <u>shanti-one@comcast.net</u> Rainbow Café: Charles Barnett 708-843-2005 <u>chazbarnett@yahoo.com</u>

Forum: Allan Lindrup 773-595-4921 <u>uusj@sbcglobal.net</u> UU Environmental Book Club: Allan Lindrup 773-595-4921 <u>uusj@sbcglobal.net</u>

UU Environmentai Book Ciub: Alian Lindrup //3-595-4921 <u>uusj@sbcglobal.net</u>

Edgar's Place:

Connections Group:

Men's Group:

Dave Rudolf

Dave Rudolf

Irene van der Hoek 708-305-4913

Allan Lindrup

Allan Lindrup

Dave Rudolf

daverudolf50@gmail.com

tulip51girl@gmail.com

uusi@sbcglobal.net

Stitchery Group: Karen Beran 708-532-6024 <u>greywolf2496@hotmail.com</u>

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/

















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

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

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