

UUCC Community News

Unitarian Universalist Community Church

APRIL 2025



Sunday Worship Service 10:00am

Sunday Services

April 6 Emily Mace

Real, Though Far-Off, Hymns

Today we take a closer look at a well-known hymn, "My Life Flows On in Endless Song." How can its words and melody offer contemporary UUs a reminder to keep going during dark times, particularly through song? What does it mean to not only endure, but transcend tempestuous times through the stirring act of singing?

April 13 Tom Neilson

NOTE: Service starts at 11:00 am

"Peace Is An Environmental Issue."

This musical sermon will address peace & justice by speaking truth to power through resistance, disobedience, thinking for ourselves and doing our own research.

April 20 Rev Denise Tracy

"An Easter Blessing from the Great Mother to the Child."

How did we get to where we are in our understanding of the Easter story?

April 27 Rev Henrietta Byrd

"Repositioning Ourselves for Greatness."

1. Through Forgiveness
2. By allowing room for Grace
3. Pausing vs. Reacting

First Sunday Potluck April 6th after worship



At UUCC, the first Sunday of each month after worship service we share a potluck luncheon. Bring a dish to share. Join us for this time of Fellowship!

UUCC Connect FORUM

NO Forum April 13 and May 11

Forum returns the second Sunday of June.

The 4/13 Worship Service will start at 11 a.m. and end after noon, so no forum is planned for that day, as a forum running between 12:30 and 1:30 p.m. would not likely be well attended. There will also be no forum in May, due to it being Mother's Day and numerous family gatherings.

Save the Date!

May 18th after the service
Annual Congregational Meeting. Light refreshments will be served.



Religious and Character Education

Classes for elementary school children have resumed. We offer classes on the first and third Sundays of the month using a curriculum based on the creation stories from different world religions and cultures.

Listening Hearts

April volunteers, Colin Kirchner and Dick 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 April 2025 by Laurene Lambertino-Urquizo



“Come on, people now...Smile on your brother...Everybody get together...Try to love one another right now...” (1)

The person who sang this song, Jesse Colin Young, recently died on March 16th. Do you remember hearing it from the 60s? It became the anthem of our generation at the time. The words and music embodied what many of us were feeling and wanting to accomplish. Fast forward to 2025, and now it just seems like “...just a dream some of us had.” (2)

I have been thinking a lot about the changes our generation has gone through in the almost sixty years since this song appeared. “Love”, “peace”, and “flower power” have been replaced with resentment, greed, and entitlement, brought to the forefront by angry politicians who have used them to stir up some of our worst instincts. The question that many are asking is “why”? Why has our society shifted so sharply? I do not think it would be too much of a stretch to say that I wake up wondering what fresh hell we are going to encounter today.

What has changed? Values...the individual beliefs that motivate our actions. Today's values have shifted substantially since the 1960s with a large segment of our population until the gap between us seems insurmountable. I hear both politicians and pundits talking about how we need to better communicate with one another but differences in wealth, education, and basic values seem to make that a distant goal. Some have amassed wealth based on their race and gender and seem unwilling to share with those living in poverty and a lack of opportunities based on their race or ethnic identity.

It may not be a coincidence that that period between the 1960s and today also saw the rise of secularism in our society. Protestant Christian denominations in the United States have lost a significant percentage of followers. Evangelical Christianity, ironically, has been responsible for much of this political shift in our society as they attempted to look for ways to return to their idealized vision of past society that many would like to recreate. And unscrupulous politicians on the right have used this desire for their own advantage. The interesting result of this has been that it has caused many to veer sharply away from actual Christianity—the principles and teachings of Jesus Christ (the “love and peace” component). How can this be?

Continued

The President's Column continued

We are now just over two months into the new presidency and things are already chaotic and confusing. That which we had been dreading has happened again. We are seeing daily acts of cruelty and social violence that are beginning to shock us into action. As an example, we hear of deportations of immigrants by ICE by literally snatching people off the streets or out of their homes, schools, or workplaces, and put on planes to be flown south, often not even to their countries of origin. It appears that there have been many on the right planning for this moment and are hellbent to get as much done as possible and as quickly as possible. The speed of these actions is mind-blowing.

As UUs, these changes hit us especially hard. Many of us who were young during the 1960s still believed in the values expressed in the songs of that generation, like "Get Together." We share a greater vision of how love and peace could transform our world into a better place. We do not look backward to the past but forward to how we could achieve a peaceful world where we could live together in harmony and shared prosperity, and we could begin in earnest to clean up our environmental issues...a world where we would celebrate our differences and embrace them. "A time for peace, I swear it's not too late." (3)

(1) GET TOGETHER, (1967) The Youngbloods

(2) CALIFORNIA (1971) Joni Mitchell

(3) TURN TURN TURN, (1965) The Byrds

Call for Delegates for General Assembly – UUCC is eligible for two delegates to represent our congregation in the denominational governance business meetings leading up to, and including the General Assembly in June. The UUA asks that delegates register by March 31st. The UUA will be holding online meetings, starting in April, to make some decisions prior to General Assembly. Delegates can attend the business / governance portion of GA at no charge, either online or in-person. If you are interested in representing UUCC as a delegate, please contact the office (churchadmin@uuccpf.org) or President Laurene Lambertino-Urquizo.

Flowering Dogwood Martial Arts Way at UCC Tuesday & Thursday at 7PM AND Saturday at 9AM

Details

Rob Dillon of Flowering Dogwood Martial Arts Way invites you to join in an exploration of Japanese swordsmanship, 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.

APRIL IS PLEDGE MONTH!



Please check your email for a Pledge message from UUCG Treasurer, Nancy Irons. This will include an update on the status of your current pledge and a request for you to make a new pledge for the upcoming 2025-2026 fiscal year. You may make your new pledge by responding to the email; or by stopping by the pledge table in-person after service; or by speaking directly with Nancy. We appreciated any and all

financial support that you can give. Pledges give us an idea of our expected income and allow us to plan our Operating Budget for the coming year. If you didn't make a pledge last year or haven't received a pledge message, please stop by the pledge table in the Gathering Room to discuss your plans for the upcoming year.

Sharing, Caring, Growing Strong!



Financial Update – The Jazz in the Afternoon event was enjoyed by many, but only raised \$125 net profit. Perhaps we can try again, with more publicity the next time?

The Solidarity Circle is still accepting donations to help cover anticipated expenses supporting Roger Lewis in his return to civilian life. Donations can be made out to UUCG with "Solidarity" in the memo line. One congregant has offered to match Solidarity donations from members and friends, up to \$1,000! Let's see if we can raise that amount. So far \$300 has been raised and matched.

The estate of Dave Matteson, longtime member of UUCG who passed away last year, recently sent UUCG a donation check for \$35,368! The Board of Trustees is planning to invest those funds in a Certificate of Deposit.

April is our pledge month. This is when we ask you to make a financial commitment to support our church for the coming fiscal year. Asking in advance helps us to plan our budget for the 2025-2026 year, as well as helping you to plan yours! Please ponder how much you can pledge and be ready to complete a pledge card for that amount in April. Thank you for your support!

Nancy Irons, UUCG Treasurer

Volunteer Recognitions

On a recent Sunday after church Michelle Johnson and Monica Regan were spotted picking up litter along Sycamore Drive. Thank you for helping to keep our property looking good. Chris Ussery volunteered his time and talent for the recent Jazz in the Afternoon session. Marilyn Ragland, Lenore Rendina and Nancy Irons helped to coordinate on the day of the event. What an enjoyable afternoon that was! Do you know of someone who gives tirelessly and is deserving of recognition? Please clue us in as to whom we should be thanking. Everyone's efforts count!

Volunteer Opportunities!

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.

There are many interesting tasks that need attention. Would you like 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@uucgpf.org) for more information or to arrange access to the building and supplies.

For Recent New Members and Prospective New Members

An Orientation will take place at UUCG on
Saturday, May 17, between Noon and 1:30 p.m.
Light refreshments included.



The revived UUCG Membership Committee is offering an Orientation session for **both those who are thinking about joining UUCG, plus those who have signed the UUCG membership book** since UUCG's last ingathering of new members. Participants will be asked to share about their religious journeys, will hear a brief history of Unitarian Universalism and a brief history of this congregation. An introduction to UUCG's Covenant and how it came to be, the responsibilities of membership, and some information on UUCG's By-Laws and Governance will also be provided. There will also be an opportunity for questions and answers. Attending an Orientation, for the purpose of information gathering, does not obligate you to join the church. If you have not had a conversation with a member of UUCG's Membership Committee (Allan Lindrup, Marilyn Ragland and Nancy Irons) regarding attending this Orientation, we invite you to let one of those individuals know if you would like to attend.

Allan Lindrup uusj@sbcglobal.net

Nancy Irons irons.nancy@gmail.com

Marilyn Ragland mexmasrag@aol.com

Support the Solidarity Circle

Solidarity Circle Report



On January 22nd, 50 year old Roger Lewis, was released from prison after 35 years of incarceration. On February 9 many of UUCG's members, plus a few friends, attended a forum where Roger told his life story, plus his hopes for the remainder of his life.

At this time Roger Lewis' main challenge is to get all the documentation he needs to get on with his life, i.e. to get driver training, to get vocational training that interests him, and to pursue job opportunities of various types. Roger has recently secured a certified copy of his birth certificate, a letter certifying his coverage by Medicaid, and some documentation to establish his residential address. He has an appointment with the Social Security Administration on April 17, to get the name on his Social Security card corrected. Once he has a corrected social security card, Roger should qualify to get a state ID. After that he can get on with his life. Roger is enjoying his freedom to be outside up to 12 hours a day and does a lot of walking for exercise, plus has a membership in a local park district gym.

Roger's miscellaneous expenses, which at this time are generally paid by Allan Lindrup, are reimbursed out of UUCG's Solidarity Circle fund. *To make a contribution to that fund, make your check or other donation payable to UUCG, with Solidarity Circle in the Note section.*

At this time donations are still being matched dollar for dollar.

To contribute to that fund make your check payable to UUCG and put Solidarity Circle in the Memo line.

Allan Lindrup



GREEN SANCTUARY BY JEFF GREEN – APRIL 2024



In conversation with the doubters, it goes something like, “If we stopped fossil fuels completely, some ungodly number of people would die.” My question to this person was, why do you go to an apocalyptic scenario all the time? Then I flipped the script and showed the person online an apocalyptic scenario based in science. If we go on the course of the present administration, we reach higher levels of destructive green house gases in the atmosphere. This brings about changes in our living space we may have great difficulty adapting to. Ok well, let's see what Deep Seek AI would come up with in exploring a global warming future. I typed in “What part of the shared socio-economic pathways is like an apocalypse?” Shared socio-economic pathways is the language describing warming in their modeling of what our future might look like.

From Deep Seek: In the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report (AR6), the Shared Socioeconomic Pathways (SSPs) are scenarios that describe different future societal developments and their implications for climate change. Among these, **SSP3** and **SSP5** are often associated with more severe outcomes, but **SSP3** is the one that most closely resembles a dystopian or "apocalyptic" scenario. End Deep Seek.

I didn't expect the SSP3 scenario to be the most apocalyptic. SSP5 is the most extreme but is the society in agreement to go full on fossil fuels.

From Deep Seek :### SSP3: Regional Rivalry – A Fragmented World

- **Characteristics**: This pathway envisions a world of extreme fragmentation, with countries focusing on self-interest and regional security. There is little international cooperation, and socioeconomic development is uneven. Inequality rises, and technological progress is slow. Environmental policies are weak, leading to high greenhouse gas emissions and severe climate impacts.

- **Climate Impact**: By the end of the century, SSP3 could result in high global warming (around 4°C or more), leading to extreme weather events, food and water shortages, and widespread displacement of populations.

- **Why It Feels Apocalyptic**: The combination of societal breakdown, lack of cooperation, and severe climate impacts creates a scenario that could be described as chaotic and dire, resembling an "apocalypse" in terms of human suffering and environmental degradation.

SSP5: Fossil Fuel-Driven Development – A High-Emissions Future

- **Characteristics**: SSP5 represents a world of rapid economic growth fueled by fossil fuels. While it doesn't involve societal collapse, it leads to extremely high greenhouse gas emissions and severe climate change impacts.

- **Climate Impact**: This pathway could result in global warming exceeding 4°C by 2100, with catastrophic consequences for ecosystems and human societies.

- **Why It's Less Apocalyptic**: Despite the severe climate impacts, SSP5 assumes continued economic growth and technological advancement, which might mitigate some of the worst societal outcomes.

continued

GREEN SANCTUARY continued

Summary

SSP3 is the pathway most akin to an "apocalypse" due to its focus on societal fragmentation, inequality, and lack of cooperation, combined with severe climate impacts. SSP5, while also leading to extreme climate change, is less apocalyptic in terms of societal collapse.

End Deep Seek

From the Park Forest UU church, Maryland Ragland got up to the microphone and talked about radical hope for people of color. This would be for their right to live a fair and just life in our society. I find myself living in hope all the more with administrations that work against taking action for the climate. It is in hope of better political support in the future. I'm in gratitude for what was accomplished in the Biden administration and will find a few places to help support the movement into more favorable politics and action.

The best bargain we can have is to spend our money wisely to build a clean energy system for all of humanity. One step at a time, one system at a time. It is not an easy task in our present politics, but an important one.

Thanks so much to everyone for letting me be part of your reading pleasure. Take care.

Jeff Green

Beltane Celebration April 26th at 2pm

April 6th at 12:30 pm is our monthly meeting. It's an opportunity to connect with fellow pagans and to become involved with Sylvan Sanctuary CUUPS and our sabbat planning. We'd love to see you there!

Bright Blessings,



Celebrate Earth Day 2025

<https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2025-our-power-our-planet/>

For 55 years, Earth Day has led the world in raising awareness and taking action on critically important environmental issues. The Earth Day organization advocate for the health of the planet, for our air, oceans, soil, eco-systems, wildlife, and human health.

On April 22nd, 2025, Earth Day will turn 55, with 192 countries and over one billion people around the globe expected to participate. This demonstrates how the diverse Earth Day movement remains as dedicated today as it was back in 1970 to bringing everyone together for a better future.

As we approach this milestone, we celebrate a transformative reality: we already possess the solutions we need to create clean, inexpensive, and unlimited energy for the entire planet through renewable solar, wind and other technologies.

This Earth Day 2025, let us commit to harnessing renewable energy to build a healthy, sustainable, equitable and prosperous future for us all, let us commit to Renewable Energy Now.

UUC COVID UPDATE: The UUC 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.



Connections

by Barb Anderson



Sarah, Darlene, Emily, Paloma, John Ray and Barb at Sunrise in Flossmoor where Paloma played her violin for the residents. Emily Zaber and John Ray live there now. Paloma Chavira has been accepted to the National Youth Orchestra and will play with professionals in Asia.

Jazz in the Afternoon event organized by Chris Ussery. A great time was had by all with delicious snacks provided by Marilyn Ragland.



continued

Connections Column continued



Owen Denk (son of Angela Denk) earned 3rd place in a professional Chess Tournament on his own, with no team, at age 11.

Photo of me and a cutout of Dolly Parton at the Rialto Theatre. I went for a 9 to 5 screening at the Rialto which was a fundraiser for Dolly Parton's Literacy program in Will county. She gives books to schools.



MESSAGE FROM THE REVEREND MS. DENISE TRACY

Good morning!

This year, the world celebrates 30 years of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, a visionary 1995 roadmap agreed by 189 governments to achieve the equal rights of all women and girls.

UN Women's latest report reviewing the past 30 years shows that despite progress in certain areas, there have been numerous setbacks. The number of women and girls living in conflict and experiencing conflict-related sexual violence has increased by 50%. A woman or girl is killed every 10 minutes by a partner or family member. Three-quarters of lawmakers are still men. About the same percentage of the world's population is living under autocratic rule, and, as we know, the weakening of democratic institutions has gone hand in hand with backlash to gender equality. As U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said, "Instead of mainstreaming equal rights, we're seeing the mainstreaming of misogyny."

"As bad as it looks, as hard as this moment is, we are in it because we're winning," believes Tarana Burke, founder of the #MeToo movement.

We, all of us at ICUUW, are in it because we're winning. We are in it because we're part of a community of U/Us who believe in our mission to make the world equal and better for everyone.

The establishment of the International Convocation of UU Women was sparked by the first international gathering of U*U women and people of progressive faith, here in Houston, in 2009. The organization has come a long way, offering a variety of programs, projects, and resources moving the needle toward gender equality - for UU communities and beyond. We are currently the only international U/U organization working directly with U/U communities around the world.

As an organization in consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council and members of the U.S. Women's Caucus, an alliance of U.S. feminists, our advocacy efforts have become increasingly important. Next week we are inaugurating our Spring Seminar in conjunction with the annual UN Commission on the Status of Women meetings in New York City. U/Us from around the world will connect, learn about the UN from seasoned experts, and engage in conversation circles.

Many women may feel that their rights and bodily autonomy are slipping through their fingers. You or one of your loved ones may be one of them. But now is not the time to panic. Now is not the time to capitulate. Now is the time to make noise - to be part of a movement - to organize together in grassroots advocacy.

Now is the time to join our movement. If you are not already on our email list, I urge you to go on our website to sign up for our newsletters and join as a member. If you want to meet fellow activists, build connections and hear about the good work happening in our networks, attend our twice-a-month Zoom gatherings.

As bad as it looks, as hard as this moment is, we must keep pushing for change.

Women and girls cannot wait for another 30 years for equal rights.



Please give generously so we can persist and resist.

Thank you,
Rev. Denise Tracy

ICE Deportation of Immigrants – Are you concerned about the mass deportation of immigrants and what it means for our communities? President Laurene Lambertino-Urquizo (lurquizo@gmail.com) is looking for people who want to get involved on this issue. Please be in touch with her to find out what volunteers can do to help protest and/or mitigate deportations.

CROP Hunger Walk for 2025-Sunday, May 4

Please help with this life-saving effort! Get your congregation or organization in-

CROP = Communities Responding



When: Sunday, May 4, 2025, 1:15 PM

Where: United Christian Church, 4351 W. 180th St.; Country Club Hills

Time: Registration begins at 1:15

Online Solicitation: www.crophungerwalk.org/homewoodil

Rally for Team Captains: "Virtual"—10 a.m., Saturday, March 22nd

Purpose: To raise funds to feed the hungry locally and around the world

To mail checks: CROP Treas. Bob Floyd; 10367 Oakwood Ct. Highland, IN 46322

Checks should be made out to CWS/CROP

This year we will once again have an "actual" Group Walk on a beautiful route. We'll begin and end at our new **host church—United Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), 4351 W. 180th St. in Country Club Hills**—to raise funds so CWS and our local agencies can provide food for vulnerable persons here at home and around the world. There will be an Opening Ceremony.

REGISTRATION will begin at 1:15 We will receive the funds anyone has collected, and all walkers will receive a route map with written directions on the back. **It is important that all walkers register, even if they are not turning in any money at this time.**

NEO-RACISM

By the late Rev. Dr. Finley C. Campbell

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

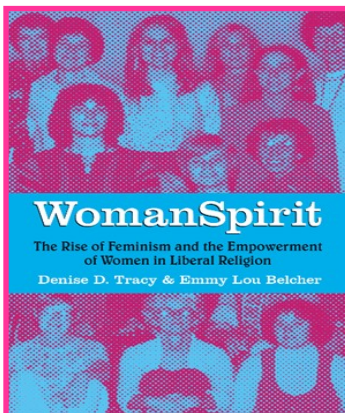
Neo-Racism

From Jim Crow to "White Supremacy Culture"

Rev. Dr. Finley C. Campbell

This book, written from a Unitarian Universalist and Marxist perspective, exposes the reactionary and divisive philosophy and consequences of what the author called *neo-racism*, and describes a multi-racial alternative--for "the unity of the light and dark skinned people of the world."

Finley Campbell, ordained a Baptist minister, was an African-American professor of Black Studies and the founder of the Unitarian Universalist Multiracial Unity Action Council.



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. 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.

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

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.



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 \$15 per class.

Call Karen (708) 755-3577

RAINBOW CAFE

Rainbow Cafe will meet on Friday, April 18, 2025

Doors to the church open around 6:30 pm. The film starts around 7:00 pm.

Soft drinks and snacks are served.



16-year-old Dedee Truitt runs away from home. She is pregnant by her ex-boyfriend, Randy Cates. Not revealing her pregnancy, Dedee eventually moves in with her much older half-brother Bill, a gay teacher in a conservative, suburban community in St. Joseph County, Indiana. Although he is living with Matt, Bill still mourns the loss of his previous partner, Tom, who died of AIDS some time ago. Bill maintains a friendship with Tom's younger sister, Lucia, who idolized her brother.

Dedee seduces Matt, then tricks him into believing he has impregnated her. They elope, leaving Bill and Lucia to track them down.

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/PAGES



Sylvan Sanctuary CUUPS

Monthly meetings are the **FIRST SUNDAY of the month at 12:30pm**. Sylvan Sanctuary CUUPS is an open, eclectic, Neo-pagan circle affiliated with the Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Park Forest. For more information or to join the group contact Angela at sylvansanctuarycuups@gmail.com

[Follow us on Facebook](#)



Sabbats 2025

Ostara

Sat., 3/22 6 - 9 p.m.

Mabon

Sat., 9/20 6 - 9 p.m.

Beltane

Sat., 4/26 2 - 5 p.m.

Lughnasadh

Treibh na Tintean
TBA

Litha

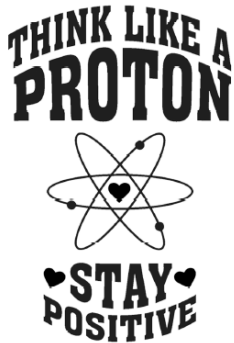
Sat., 6/21 2 - 5 p.m.

Samhain

Sat., 10/25 6 - 10 p.m.

A POSITIVITY PROJECT PRESENTS...

Share Group Meetings on the First and Third Mondays



Feeling overwhelmed? Looking for a BRIGHT SPOT?

The **POSITIVITY PROJECT** meets the **FIRST & THIRD MONDAY EACH MONTH AT 6:30PM. Doors open at 6pm.**

Join folks who are sharing positive experiences and ways to see our world in a more satisfying light. Enjoy a soft beverage and a short meditation sending our most loving thoughts to the planet and inhabitants. All are welcome.

For more info contact Michele at 708-748-0362

Follow us on [FaceBook](#)

Sound Bath on the Second Monday

A Positivity Project invites you to *Sounds for a Gentle Earth*, our next sound offering on Monday, April 14th from 6:30-7:30

Did you know that sound can have a deep impact on us both physically and psychologically? Because we are made up of mostly water we are influenced by the frequencies of the noises around us. A sound bath is a meditative practice that incorporates the playing of bowls, bells, chimes or gongs and can be easier than other meditative practices because all you have to do is listen.

\$20 per person. Registration required.
Contact Michele Johnson at 708-748-0362



The 4th Monday Candlelight Labyrinth will resume in the fall.

HELP US BEAUTIFY THE CHURCH GROUNDS

SUNDAY APRIL 27TH AT 11:30

On April Sunday April 27 after the service from 11:30-12:30 The Positivity Project is planning to have a Sycamore Drive cleanup. You may have noticed there is often debris strewn along the street, so we want to clean up around the church. Come join us if you can. Bring gloves.

Contact Michele Johnson at 708-748-0362



[Image by macrovector](#)



North American Unitarian Association *Helping Liberal Religion Thrive*

The North American Unitarian Association (NAUA) is open to membership by individuals or organizations (such as congregations). There is no specific membership donation, it is a free-will donation system. An organization can be a member of NAUA while concurrently being a member of the UUA or any other non-profit organization. During this church year we will share with you some of the offerings of the NAUA.

Monthly Academy Program Tuesday, APRIL 8, 6:30 p.m. Central

Role of Faith Communities in Abolishing Nuclear Weapons

Please note that you Must **REGISTER HERE** to have the Zoom URL emailed to you.



The NAUA 3rd Saturday of the month Worship Service April 19th at 12:00 Noon Central Time

"Life After Death" by **Bob Simoni** . At its heart, religion must try to provide answers to the questions surrounding our existence. Worship service Zoom link - <https://tinyurl.com/NAUAService>

Bob Simoni is our NAUA Treasurer, board member, a long time Unitarian.



NAUA has several small groups, called Circles. Three are on-going. A new one, which is just organizing, will focus on spirituality and last 10 to 12 session (probably once a month). It will be led by retired UU minister David Markham. When it will be scheduled is not yet know - probably decided by a poll of those who express an interest. To express an interest email circles@naunitarians.org

The UCC Board has agreed to share information about the **North American Unitarian Association (NAUA)** with our members, so that later in the church year our membership can decide if it would like to have UCC affiliate with NAUA in addition to the UUA. (There is no cost for such affiliation). The NAUA's bi-monthly newsletter is called the Liberal Beacon. Click on this link to download the newsletter. <https://naunitarians.org/liberal-beacon/> A sample Liberal Beacon Newsletter is in the Gathering Room.

Side With Love Action Center

“There is no such thing as a single-issue struggle because we do not live single-issue lives.” — Audre Lorde

Action Center Guide

The work that we do together to build a world in which all of us are free and thriving is interrelated. When we ground our spirits, grow our skills, and act strategically for justice in deep relationship with each other and our Movements, we choose to Side With Love.

Action Center is a place where we unite in work towards a world where we all thrive. Together we take action, Side With Love, and make deep impacts in this critical moment.

Our intersectional justice priorities are: Climate Justice, Democracy and Electoral Justice, Decriminalization, LGBTQIA+ and Gender Justice

Will you join us?

Subscribe to our newsletters

Join one of our volunteer Squads, the backbone of the Action Center



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
ADVOCACY NETWORK
OF ILLINOIS

Do you have an hour or so a month to help us put together our Actions of the Week? Please contact us if you do. Thanks!

You can take action and sign up **HERE** for [UUANI Actions of the Week](#)



APRIL 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Election Day 10:30am Stitchery Group 7pm Flowering Dogwood Martial Arts	2 1p Connections Group 7pm Yoga	3 9:30am Yoga 3pm PADS team 7pm Flowering Dogwood Martial Arts	4	5 9am Online Buddhist Meditation 9am Flowering Dogwood Martial Arts
6 10am Worship POTLUCK 12:30p CUUPs Meeting 6:30p UUC Men's Group	7 9:30am Yoga 6pm Positivity Project	8 7pm Flowering Dogwood Martial Arts	9 7pm Yoga	10 9:30am Yoga 7pm Flowering Dogwood Martial Arts	11	12 9am Online Buddhist Meditation 9am Flowering Dogwood Martial Arts
13 10am Worship	14 9:30am Yoga 6pm Sound Bath	15 Tax Day 7pm Flowering Dogwood Martial Arts	16 1p Connections Group 7pm UUMUAC online Worship Service 7pm Yoga	17 9:30am Yoga 7pm Flowering Dogwood Martial Arts	18	19 9am Online Buddhist Meditation 9am Flowering Dogwood Martial Arts
20 HAPPY EASTER! 10am Worship	21 9:30am Yoga 6pm Positivity Project 7pm Environmental Book Club (Zoom)	22 EARTH DAY 7pm Board Meeting (Zoom) 7pm Flowering Dogwood Martial Arts	23 7pm Yoga	24 9:30am Yoga 7pm Flowering Dogwood Martial Arts	25 7pm Rainbow Cafe	26 9am Online Buddhist Meditation 9am Flowering Dogwood Martial Arts 2pm CUUPS Beltane Celebration
27 10am Worship	28 9:30am Yoga	29 7pm Flowering Dogwood Martial Arts	30 7pm Yoga	May 1 9:30am Yoga 3pm PADS team 7pm Flowering Dogwood Martial Arts	May 2	May 3 9am Online Buddhist Meditation 9am Flowering Dogwood Martial Arts

Event Facilitators

Buddhist Meditation:	Steve McCabe	steve.mccabe6914@gmail.com
Yoga:	Karen Nielsen	708-755-3577 shanti-one@comcast.net
Rainbow Café:	Charles Barnett	708-843-2005 chazbarnett@yahoo.com
Forum:	Allan Lindrup	773-595-4921 uusj@sbcglobal.net
UU Environmental Book Club:	Allan Lindrup	773-595-4921 uusj@sbcglobal.net
Connections Group:	Irene van der Hoek	708-305-4913 tulip51girl@gmail.com
Men's Group:	Allan Lindrup	773-595-4921 uusj@sbcglobal.net
Stitchery Group:	Karen Beran	708-532-6024 greywolf2496@hotmail.com
A Positivity Project:	Michele Johnson	708-748-0362 (Meetings, Sound bath, Labyrinth)
CUUPs - Sylvan Sanctuary	Angela Denk	sylvansanctuarycuups@gmail.com

Call or email 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 churchadmin@uucpf.org

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

***Unitarian Universalist
Community Church
70 Sycamore Drive
Park Forest, IL 60466***