

UUCC Community News

Unitarian Universalist Community Church

MAY 2025



Sunday Worship Service 10:00am

Sunday Services

May 4 Karyn Calabrese

Prioritizing Health and Wellness During Challenging Times

May 11 Rev Denise Tracy

Soul on Fire: The Life and Faith of Dietrich Bonhoeffer

This theologian and minister lived and died during WWII under the Nazi regime. What can we learn from his story?

May 18 Leanne Mull

It's Ok to Feel Sad

Sad, Blue, Sorrowful the list goes on. There are a lot of Synonyms for the word Sad but what does it really mean to feel sad? Why do we fight the feeling? We will talk the role sadness has in our lives as humans and how to embrace, or at least accept it.

May 25 Rev Henrietta Byrd

Our Power is Increased by Love

1. pondering a concern is important
2. identifying the love of the concern empowers us into action NOW!

First Sunday Potluck MAY 4th 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 on May 11

Forum returns the second Sunday of June.

There will be no forum in May, due to it being Mother's Day and numerous family gatherings.

Save the Date!

**UUCC Annual
Congregational
Meeting.**

May 18th after the service



All UUCC Members are asked to attend in person or by Zoom.

Please participate in the vote for Board Trustees, the church budget, and amendments to the UUCC By-Laws. 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.



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



Listening Hearts

Listening Hearts

May volunteers, Barb Anderson and Monica Regan are available as a source for listening, support and resources.



The President's Column MAY 2025 by Laurene Lambertino-Urquiza



I came across an interesting film on PBS about two weeks ago. It was called, "Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War" (from 2016). The one hour, twenty-minute documentary was directed by Artemis Joukowsky and the famous documentary filmmaker Ken Burns, who also served as producer, executive producer, and presenter of the project. Tom Hanks is the featured voice of Waitstill Sharp, the protagonist in this story. "Defying the Nazis" is currently available on the www.pbs.org website, but it is also available on YouTube and Amazon Video or Apple TV for a small fee. (I cannot predict how long it will be available on PBS.)

It is the story of Rev. Waitstill Sharp and his wife, Martha Sharp, an American minister from Wellesley, Massachusetts, who left their children in the United States and traveled to Europe to save Jews and refugees right before the Second World War erupted. The Sharps saved many refugees in Europe at the onset of World War II.

What made Waitstill Sharp especially interesting to me was the fact that he happened to be a Unitarian minister. (Remember that this took place in the 1930s, which was before the Unitarian and Universalist religions merged in 1961.) The Sharps were asked by the American Unitarian Association (AUA) to travel to Europe in 1939 to help provide aid to the thousands fleeing the Nazi occupation. They left their two small children in the care of friends and went to Prague, Czechoslovakia, to rescue Jews, dissidents, and children from there before the war. If they had been caught doing this, they would have been arrested, or worse, by the Nazis. They left Europe right before World War II started on September 1, 1939.

By 1940, the Sharps were the first to establish the Unitarian Service Committee (later the UUSC) with their humanitarian work aiding refugees in Europe. They traveled again to the European countries of Portugal, Spain, and France in 1940. Martha Sharp was reluctant to leave her children again only nine months after they had returned to the United States. But she decided to go and began concentrating her work on the importing of dried and condensed milk—twelve tons of it—to the children of southern France who were suffering from malnutrition. Martha stayed on with her work until she returned to the U.S. in December 1940, bringing twenty-seven refugee children and ten adults with her. They also escorted groups of refugees to escape and sent children to Great Britain as part of *kindertransport*.

Waitstill had returned earlier to the U.S. in October, disillusioned about the state of the world and only wanting to return to being a Unitarian clergyman once again. Their wartime experience had caused friction between Waitstill and Martha and they eventually divorced in 1954. Martha assumed a new role in 1943 by founding "Children to Palestine" in which she raised money for orphaned Jewish youth to start new lives in Palestine.

Both Sharps were called into action to save countless lives during the desperate times of World War II and did not refuse when they were asked to take on a dangerous assignment that could have resulted in their deaths. Of the 25,000 people who were recognized as "Righteous Among the Nations" by Israel's Yad Vashem for their actions, only five Americans are counted in that group. Waitstill and Martha Sharp are on that list.



Save the Date! *Annual Congregational Meeting May 18th*



After the service all Members of UUCC are asked to attend in person or by Zoom. Please participate in the vote for Board Trustees, the church budget, and the proposed amendments for the UUCC By-Laws (see below). A Zoom Link, slate of candidates and other information will be sent out before the meeting. For those who can attend in person, light refreshments will be served.

Sharing, Caring, Growing Strong!

Proposed Amendments for the UUCC By-Laws

An introduction, by Allan Lindrup

Last fall the UUCC Board, with input from two former UUCC Board Presidents, developed several revisions to the UUCC By-Laws. They were ready for consideration at the next official business meeting of the UUCC membership. That next business meeting is the 2025 Annual Meeting, to be held on Sunday, May 18. You will see the By-Laws, with the proposed amendments, when they are sent out with the notice of the annual meeting. The proposed new wording is in red, while the words to be deleted are highlighted in yellow.

We voted, at last year's annual meeting, to keep using the UU 7 Principles and 6 Sources, which the UUA had adopted in 1985, but then voted to discontinue using last June. The first proposed amendment to the By-Laws changes Article II from stating our congregation's Purpose to stating our congregation's Purpose, Principles, and Sources. The 7 UU Principles and 6 Sources are incorporated into our By-Laws as sections 2 and 3 of Article II.

Article IV deals with affiliations. The proposed amendment continues our affiliation with the UUA and its MidAmerica Region, but also initiates an affiliation with the North American Unitarian Association (NAUA). We have been sharing information about NAUA with our congregants since last fall.

Article VI, which deals with meetings of the congregation, has proposed amendments to allow meeting notices to be delivered electronically or by ground mail. Also, while members must be present at congregational meetings to participate in them, being present is revised to include being present virtually.

Article IX, on the Minister, is revised to indicate that all sections of this article only apply if the congregation hires a full time minister, that the Board of Trustees shall determine which of these provisions shall apply in the case of a part-time minister. The former section 4, requiring the minister to be in fellowship with the UUA, as determined by the Ministerial Fellowship Committee, is to be eliminated under this proposal. We would want the flexibility to consider a wider range of liberal ministers and have one who was capable of being independent of the UUA.

Article X, on a Committee on Ministry, is also revised to indicate that, in the case of a part-time minister, the Board of Director shall determine which of the items in this article shall apply.

Financial Update –



The Board of Trustees and the Finance Committee will meet early in May to formulate a proposed Operating Budget for fiscal 2025-26. This will be based on anticipated pledges and rental income; as well as historical expenses. As Treasurer, I will present this budget proposal at our Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 18th. Do you have any suggestions for purchases or fundraising for the upcoming fiscal year? We would like to hear from you prior to the budget planning meeting. Please be in touch!

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 UUCP 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.

Nancy Irons, UUCP Treasurer

Volunteer Recognitions

The Positivity Project organized a litter pickup after church on April 27th. Thank you to all who participated! Chief Jensen continues to blow leaves off the walkway and patio early on Sunday mornings. Thank you Chief! Darlene Obejda tirelessly volunteers in the kitchen each Sunday, ensuring that there is coffee and snacks on hand for all. Thank you Darlene! 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@uucppf.org) for more information or to arrange access to the building and supplies.

News from the Rental Team Task Force

Almost 2 years ago, the Rental Team Task Force was created. The team was formed in order to identify projects that would make the church more appealing to possible renters.

A long list of wide-ranging projects was made. And one of the latest projects is to get the Music office ready for rental.

With Board approval and full support from Chris Ussery and Bev Feldt, the work to clear the space has begun.

In consultation with Chris and Bev, we are in the process of creating a space in classroom 1, suitable to their needs as Music and Choir directors.

Do you know someone who might be interested in renting the Music office?

The space measures 190 sq feet and will be available per July 1.

The rental fee will be determined by the Board in the near future.

Contact Virginia Jackson (708/481-5339) or Irene van der Hoek (708/305-4913).

For Recent New Members and Prospective New Members

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



The revived UUC Membership Committee is offering an Orientation session for **both those who are thinking about joining UUC, plus those who have signed the UUC membership book** since UUC'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 UUC's Covenant and how it came to be, the responsibilities of membership, and some information on UUC'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 UUC'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 UUC's members, plus a few friends, attended a forum where Roger told his life story, plus his hopes for the remainder of his life.

Roger has secured a state ID. The Social Security Administration has approved his getting a corrected Social Security card, which should come in the mail the week of May 1. Roger needs an eye exam and corrected lens for both his distance vision and his near vision. He has an appointment with an optometrist who accepts Medicare in early May. Once he has his new glasses, Roger will be able to take the vision and written test to get a driving learners permit. At the end of April Roger will have his electronic ankle monitor removed and he will be free to be away from home before 8 a.m. or after 8 p.m. At the end of May Roger will have his 51st birthday, his first since regaining his freedom. Roger has gotten on the waiting list for the Michael Barlow Center's Culinary School, which includes a food handler's certification. He may get into their next class, that starts in June. His sister is a big support and they talk by phone virtually every day.

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



encore presentation

Dave Rudolf

Album Release Concert

Friday, May 9th, 7:00pm

\$15 cover



Join Gold Record, Grammy nominated, 15 time nominee for College Entertainer of the year awards, recording artist Dave Rudolf and friends to celebrate the release of his 45th album "Time Does Fly". 6 out of the last 8 years Daves' albums have been selected as Top Ten Regional albums by NPR radio (Tom Lounge)s.. Joining Dave on stage will be Ryan Rudolf on bass and vocals, Jim Frels and Steve Wing will add harmonies as the Three Wise Guys, and maybe a few other musical guests may show up as well.. With special prices on all albums.

Unitarian Universalist Community Church
70 Sycamore, Park Forest, IL

Message from Valerie Burk

Dear Friends,

It will be 5 months since our last official Edgar's Place Coffee House show, with Dave Rudolf and friends. I hope you've all been doing well. Dave said he'd be back for an occasional show, and here we have it. Let's celebrate Dave's 45th (no, that's not a typo!) album, and the spring season. Join us for an evening of great music and good fun, two weeks from today, on **Friday, May 9th at 7 PM**. Please see the attached e-flyer.

NOTE: You can now watch the videos for two outstanding songs, as well as videos for his live performances, if you'd like to check them out.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AJ_DHJFHVxs

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LO22KDNTikU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tcSjs1j2RTO>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SnIRHRyr_eU



The Beverly Unitarian Church will be hosting a Nature Walk and Meditation at the Portiuncula Center in Frankfort on Saturday 5/31/25. This will include a silent walk (including a labyrinth) then a guided meditation. The only cost is a donation.

REGISTER [HERE](#)

Nature Walk and Meditation

Saturday May 31 9am

The Portiuncula Center for Prayer

9263 W St Francis Rd
Frankfort IL 60423

Join us for a morning of peaceful connection in a sanctuary for stillness.

Free participation (donation suggested at registration) all are welcome.
Carpool rides available from Beverly Unitarian Church on request.

register at redlotussangha.org





GREEN SANCTUARY BY JEFF GREEN – MAY 2024



I have the privilege of attending two different churches and benefiting from what both have to offer. At the Berean County UU church in Michigan, they are now having a Climate Cafe every three months. During the film "In the End" we watched together after the vegan meal, a segment inspired me to write this article. Several of the CEOs from fossil fuel companies were testifying in Congress on the subject of global warming. Their response was, yes, there is global warming, but fossil fuels are more affordable and more reliable. Each CEO rolled that phrase out in the same way. I have enough experience studying renewable energy to know that this is no longer true. Renewable energy and storage are now the more affordable and reliable energy. Peak electricity, which is produced mostly from natural gas, is more expensive to operate than with batteries. Natural gas has the highest failure rate of the different energies used to make electricity for us. Below is an article that goes into the details of why this is so.

<https://www.canarymedia.com/articles/fossil-fuels/natural-gas-is-the-pillar-of-the-us-electric-grid-its-also-unreliable>

Natural gas is the pillar of the US electric grid. It's also unreliable

Below is a Deep Seek summation of the sentence below.

"How is clean energy superior to fossil fuel energy?"

From Deep Seek.

Clean energy is superior to fossil fuel energy in several key ways, making it a more sustainable and beneficial choice for the environment, human health, and the economy. Here's a detailed comparison:

1. Environmental Benefits

- **Reduced Greenhouse Gas Emissions**: Clean energy sources (solar, wind, hydro, nuclear, geothermal) produce little to no CO₂ emissions, unlike fossil fuels (coal, oil, gas), which are the primary drivers of climate change.

- **Less Air & Water Pollution**: Fossil fuels release harmful pollutants like sulfur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), and particulate matter, causing smog, acid rain, and respiratory diseases. Clean energy avoids these.

- **No Risk of Oil Spills or Coal Ash Disasters**: Renewable energy doesn't produce toxic waste like oil spills (e.g., Deepwater Horizon) or coal ash ponds that contaminate water supplies.

**2. Health Benefits

- **Fewer Premature Deaths**: Air pollution from fossil fuels causes millions of premature deaths annually (heart disease, lung cancer, asthma). Clean energy reduces these health risks.

- **No Mercury or Heavy Metals**: Coal plants emit mercury, which contaminates fish and harms brain development in children. Renewables eliminate this threat.

continued

GREEN SANCTUARY continued

3. Economic & Energy Security Advantages

- ****Stable & Declining Costs****: Solar and wind power costs have dropped dramatically (solar by ~90% since 2010), making them cheaper than coal or gas in most regions. Fossil fuels are subject to volatile price swings.
- ****Job Creation****: The renewable energy sector creates more jobs per unit of energy than fossil fuels (e.g., solar installers, wind technicians, battery manufacturing).
- ****Energy Independence****: Countries relying on domestic wind, solar, or hydropower reduce dependence on imported oil/gas, improving national security.

4. Sustainability & Resource Availability

- ****Infinite Supply****: Sunlight, wind, and geothermal heat are inexhaustible, unlike finite fossil fuels, which will eventually deplete.
- ****Lower Water Usage****: Solar PV and wind use minimal water, whereas coal, gas, and nuclear plants require vast amounts for cooling, worsening droughts.

5. Technological & Grid Advantages

- ****Decentralization & Resilience****: Rooftop solar and microgrids reduce vulnerability to large-scale blackouts (unlike centralized fossil fuel plants).
- ****Innovation & Storage Growth****: Advances in battery storage (e.g., lithium-ion, solid-state) are solving intermittency issues, making renewables more reliable than ever.

Challenges (Addressed with Solutions)

- ****Intermittency (Sun/Wind Variability)**** → Solved by grid-scale batteries, hydrogen storage, and diversified renewable mixes.
- ****Land Use Concerns**** → Offshore wind and agrivoltaics (solar + farming) minimize land impact.

****Conclusion**** Clean energy is superior because it combats climate change, saves lives, creates jobs, and ensures long-term energy security—all while becoming more affordable. Fossil fuels, despite their current infrastructure dominance, are increasingly outdated due to their environmental harm, health costs, and economic inefficiency.

End Deep Seek

Fossil fuel companies pay millions of dollars to get their side of the story told. Much of it is false, and there is work to do to sort out the truth. Slick ads come out telling their story, overwhelming the side of clean energy advocates. There is a better way to make energy that fits all our needs. Health, cost, reliability, sustainability. Fossil fuels cannot provide the whole package the way renewable energy can. Challenges to getting all clean energy need our time and energy to get worked out, but it's well worth the effort. To put more effort into fossil fuels is just a waste of time, personal energy, and money.

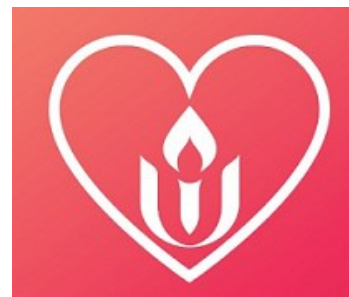
As always, thanks for making Green Sanctuary a part of your reading time and pleasure.
Jeff Green

UUCS COVID UPDATE: The UUCS 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



Flutist, Zechary Stig-

Anne Holcomb invited flutist Zechary Stigger to participate in her service on March 3, 2025. It was such a delightful experience.

Anne is working for the people of Chicago's "East Side" to have a clean, healthy space on the old US Steel plant land. It's called the Brownfield Project. I was flipping channels and saw Anne speaking in protest for the land use. The people who live there want to have medical, educational and recreational services. A clean up needs to be done before the area is covered by a super computer. Anne was on Fox, WGN and WTTW news channels.



Plan commission signs off on quantum c...

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WGN N... 589K [Subscribe](#)

Tom Neilson and Lynn Waldron sang protest songs at UUCU.
Lynn gave me this reading. It's worth publishing. My photos are on Facebook.

Here is the reading by Laura Jean Truman

Keep my anger from becoming meanness
Keep my sorrow from collapsing into self-pity
Keep my heart soft enough to keep breaking
Keep my anger turned towards justice
Keep me fiercely kind
Remind me that every bit of this is for love



At Rev Henrietta Byrd's service, Rev. Sheila Jones read a story about having a super power – making people smile and feel good about themselves.

continued

Connections Column continued

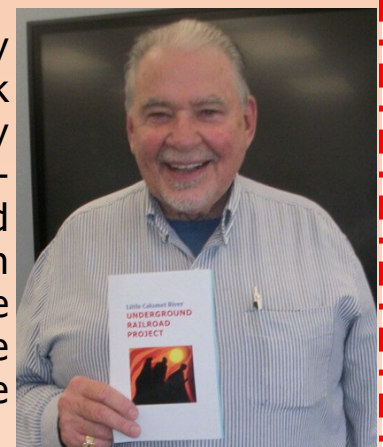


Roger Lewis and Allan Lindrup are in this photo offering snacks during a showing of "Bagdad Café" in UUCC's Classroom 3. It's a fun movie with a sweet message.



Rev Dr Larry McClellan

Tom Shepherd and Rev Dr Larry McClellan continue with their work educating us about the runaway slaves seeking freedom and the courageous people who aided them. First Reformed Church in South Holland, Illinois is now the starting point for "field trips" to the "Underground RR" stations along the Calumet River.



Tom Shepherd

A memorial at First Reformed Church in South Holland, Illinois, uses railroad ties to depict the Underground Railroad



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.



Please join violinist Paloma Furst Chavira and her colleagues from the Chicago Musical Pathways Initiative for their end of year recital featuring top string players from the program.

The recital will take place **Wednesday, May 21 at 7:00pm: Buntrock Hall, Symphony Center**

220 S. Michigan Ave, Chicago, IL 60604

Paloma will perform the first movement of the Sibelius violin concerto.

Chicago Musical Pathways Initiative supports young classical musicians from underrepresented communities and helps prepare them for a career as a classical musician. Please support Paloma and this amazing organization!

Help Send Paloma to Abroad this Summer!



Paloma Chavira, our very own violin prodigy, is once again looking to raise funds for a summer abroad, where she will take lessons and play concerts. Upon her return,

Paloma and Rev. Denise Tracy will collaborate on a special Sunday service in September. UUCC members are asked to

help sponsor this summer 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 turn your contributions in by the end of May. If you have questions, Treasurer Nancy Irons, can provide additional information.



~~~~~ RECOMMENDED READING ~~~~~

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 book will help UUs understand this issue better. 258 pages. Available from Amazon, \$15

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.



What's Happening at UUCC?



www.freepik.com

NO UUCC Men's Group in May

Since Allan will be out of town when the UUCC Men's Group would normally meet in May, the guys who are the regular participants chose to skip meeting in May and *will resume the first Sunday evening in June.*

Meetings are on the **FIRST SUNDAY of the month.**

Anyone identifying as male who would like to join us should contact Allan Lindrup at uusj@sbcglobal.net or 773-595-4921.



Tuesday, May 6th at 10:30 am

This group meets the **FIRST TUESDAY of the month from 10:30am-noon** at UUCC. 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 MINISTRY Summer Hiatus

REMINDER: No Connections Small Group Meetings during June, July and August.

We will meet again in the FALL 2025, on the **2ND WEDNESDAY** of each month 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

We look forward to welcoming you in our midst in September 2025

ATTENTION! Are you concerned about the environment?

Join the Multi UU Church Environmental Book Club

on **Monday, May 19th starting at 7 p.m., via Zoom**

Meetings are on the **THIRD MONDAY EACH MONTH via Zoom**, 7pm to 8:30pm

The group will be starting a new book at its May 19 meeting. Participants are still voting on the next book selection. If you have not been a participant, but would like to try it out or join, please contact Allan Lindrup at uusj@sbcglobal.net or 773-595-4921.



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

Buddhist Meditation

Saturdays at 9:30am -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.



A Moment in Balance weekly Yoga Classes by Karen Nielsen at UUC 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, May 16, 2025

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

Soft drinks and snacks are served.



Wai-Tung (Winston Chao) and his boyfriend (Mitchell Lichtenstein) live happily as a gay couple in New York City. Wai-Tung has not been open about his sexuality with his Taiwanese parents (Sihung Lung, Ah-Leh Gwa), and decides to acquiesce to their wish for a traditional Chinese union by marrying Wei-Wei (May Chin), a struggling artist desperate for a green card. But the simple arrangement turns into a lavish debacle when Wai-Tung's parents plan an extravagant wedding banquet.

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 SUMMER SCHEDULE

- ⇒ Positivity Group Share Meetings on the First Mondays at 6:30pm
- ⇒ May 12th at 6:30p *Last sound bath until Fall!*
- ⇒ The 4th Monday Candlelight Labyrinth will resume in the fall.
- ⇒ Positivity Pick-Up. Last Sunday of each month.



Feeling overwhelmed? Looking for a BRIGHT SPOT?

The **POSITIVITY PROJECT** meets the **FIRST 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](#)

A Positivity Project invites you to *Sounds for a Gentle Earth*,
our next sound offering on Monday, May 12th 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



Positivity Pick-Up is the last Sunday of the Month

~POSITIVITY PICK-UP~

HELP US BEAUTIFY THE CHURCH GROUNDS SUNDAY MAY 25th AT 11:30

On April Sunday May 25th 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, MAY 13, 2025 6:30 p.m. Central Time

A Vision for Liberal Religion with Dr. Matthew Shear

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

The NAUA 3rd Saturday of the month Worship Service May 17th at 12:00 Noon Central Time

Todd Eklof, NAUA President, will discuss where we are, and where we might go. This will be a chance to reflect on our course and offer your thoughts to the community. In addition, with our annual Summit only a few months away, participants will be invited to share their priorities and suggestions as we plan, prepare, and move forward.

Zoom access at <https://tinyurl.com/NAUAService>

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**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9:30am Yoga 3pm PADS team 7pm Flowering Dogwood Martial Arts	2	3 9:30am Online Buddhist Meditation
4 10am Worship POTLUCK 12:30p CUUPs Meeting 6:30p NO Men's Group—resume in June	5 9:30am Yoga 6pm Positivity Project	6 10:30am Stitchery Group 7pm Flowering Dogwood Martial Arts	7 7pm Yoga	8 9:30am Yoga 7pm Flowering Dogwood Martial Arts	9	10 9:30am Online Buddhist Meditation
11 10am Worship NO FORUM HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY	12 9:30am Yoga 6pm Sound Bath (Last Sound Bath until Fall!)	13 7pm Board Meeting (Zoom) 7pm Flowering Dogwood Martial Arts	14 1p Connections Group (Last meeting until Fall!) 7pm Yoga	15 9:30am Yoga 7pm Flowering Dogwood Martial Arts	16 7pm Rainbow Cafe	17 9:30am Online Buddhist Meditation
18 10am Worship 11:30 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING	19 9:30am Yoga 7pm Environmental Book Club (Zoom)	20 7pm Flowering Dogwood Martial Arts	21 7pm UUMUAC online Worship Service 7pm Yoga	22 9:30am Yoga 7pm Flowering Dogwood Martial Arts	23	24 9:30am Online Buddhist Meditation
25 10am Worship 11:30 Positivity Pick-Up garbage around the church	26 9:30am Yoga	27 7pm Flowering Dogwood Martial Arts	28 7pm Yoga	29 9:30am Yoga 7pm Flowering Dogwood Martial Arts	30	31 9:30am Online Buddhist Meditation

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@uuccpf.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

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