

# UUCC Community News

Unitarian Universalist Community

September 2025



## Sunday Worship Service 10:00am

### Sunday Services

**Sept 7 Beverly Feldt**

**Title: Begin Again.**

The Corn Roast after the service today marks the start of the new church year. What does it mean to begin again?

**Sept 14 Rev Denise Tracy**

**Title: Being Called to Greater Purpose!**

We all create lives and look for meaning. This service will be shared with our very own Paloma adding her musical splendor!

**Sept 21 February Sky**

**(Presenters Susan Urban & Phil Cooper)**

**Title: In Sweet Fields of Autumn-A Second Harvest Celebration (Mabon or Harvest Home)**

**Bring an Autumn Harvest fruit, food or decoration to church** (e.g. apples, corn, wheat, squash, acorns, autumn leaves, pine cones, etc.). We will celebrate Harvest Home, say a fond goodbye to Summer and reflect on the winter to come.

**Sept 28 Rev. Dr. Mary Ann Dier-Zimmerman**

**Title: To Seek and to Save the Lost.**

The power of unity in us all. The spiritual pilgrimage of a transgender woman. My work with transgender children, youth and adults.

### UUCC Annual Corn Roast



**After the service on Sunday**

**September 7<sup>th</sup>.**

Everyone is encouraged to register in advance. Corn, Burgers and Hot Dogs will be provided by UUCC. Attendees are asked to bring a side dish, dessert or drink.

Volunteers are needed for setup on Saturday, cooking on Sunday as well as cleanup after the event. The online registration form can also be used to volunteer.

[Click here to register](#). We hope to see you there!

### You and UU Forum

UUCC's forum series resumes **Sunday, Sept 14** in Room 3, starting about 11:30 a.m., with the option to join by Zoom. There will be a short report regarding the business conducted at GA 2025. After that there will be the first of a series of forums that discuss what each of the 7 UU Principles means to us. On Sept. 14 we will discuss what the first UU Principle - the inherent worth and dignity of every person - means to us.

### UUCC Men's Group

The group will resume its regular monthly meeting on October 5th the **FIRST SUNDAY of the month at 6:30PM**. Anyone identifying as male who would like to join us should contact Allan Lindrup at [uusj@sbcglobal.net](mailto:uusj@sbcglobal.net) or 773-595-4921.



Listening Hearts

### Listening Hearts

**September** volunteers, Chief (Bob Jensen) and Monica Regan are available as a source for listening, support and resources.

### Religious and Character Education

During the Sunday service, on the first and third Sundays of the month, classes for elementary school children are offered using a curriculum based on the creation stories from different world religions and cultures.



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



## The President's Column SEPTEMBER 2025 by Laurene Lambertino-Urquizo



Those of you who know me well, know me to be a political junkie. I have been one all my life. I distinctly remember in grade school telling my classmates about the "haves and the have-nots." I was surely mimicking what I had heard at home from my liberal democrat parents. But that liberal foundation stayed with me and by high school I was ditching school to take the IC train to Chicago to take part in protests against the war in Vietnam, and within a few years, knowing fellow classmates who had lost their lives in that senseless war. My first job upon graduating college was as a community organizer in Aurora, IL.

So, I have been paying attention to politics my entire life. I have watched the not-so-subtle dance between Republicans and Democrats as they have assumed power and lost it over the decades. Now is no different. If you come to my house, chances are I will have MSNBC on my television in the background with the volume lowered but just enough to alert me if something happens. I thought I had seen everything until now. The insanity that rages from the Oval Office daily is unlike anything I have experienced before. We are living in a time that will be studied and gone over for decades to come. Historians will scratch their heads and ask, "How could they have been so dumb?"

But even beyond the politics of the moment, what makes me the most incensed these days are the actions of the Trump-anointed U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. While Trump may mishandle the U.S. economy, trade, immigration, foreign affairs, etc. etc., RFK Jr. is making decisions that will put American lives at risk and that may cause people to die from his policies, including children. This frustrates me to no end.

Established scientific facts are being treated like they are somehow suspect and discredited by this man who has a Law degree and NO background in science whatsoever. Case in point: vaccines. Vaccines have long been recognized as the greatest scientific innovation of the 20th Century, but the "anti-vaxx" movement has introduced doubt in the minds of parents and have succeeded to make them question the data behind them. Vaccines warrant better public relations to explain to the American public that they do not and cannot always prevent a disease itself but can lessen the severity of the disease to prevent hospitalization or death. That is all they can do, and many people do not understand this, or think that if they feel punky for a day or two after receiving a vaccine that they somehow should not have gotten it. I cannot say this enough: VACCINES SAVE LIVES. That is my rant for this month. Thank you for listening.

**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](mailto: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.

## Volunteer Recognitions

The Village of Park Forest recently held an open meeting at UUC to address tenants concerns and legal rights regarding conditions in the nearby Autumn Ridge apartments. Thanks go out to Marilyn Ragland, Beccie Bruckner and Jeff Fields for serving as UUC liaisons and being a church presence during that meeting.

## 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](mailto:mexmasrag@aol.com)) for details on the Sexton team; Joyce Sligar ([jsligar02@gmail.com](mailto:jsligar02@gmail.com)) for Ushers and Greeters; and Jodi Libretti ([jlibretti@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jlibretti@sbcglobal.net)) for the Zoom hosts.

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@uuccpf.org](mailto:churchadmin@uuccpf.org)) for more information or to arrange access to the building and supplies.

## Financial Update

We have been collecting bids for repair work around UUC. In particular, we hope to have the building power-washed and painted this fall. We also want to have the parking lot repaired, resealed and restriped. Unfortunately, the parking lot bids have been coming in with very high price tags. At the August Board meeting it was decided to postpone the parking lot work until spring, with the intention of having a Capital Campaign before then. So, if you are looking for a charity to donate to before the end of the calendar year, keep us in mind. You can specifically donate to the Capital Fund and have your donation be applied to parking lot repairs. If you are interested in helping to organize a Capital Campaign, please contact me. Perhaps we should have another Valentine's Day Party to kick off such a campaign? What are your thoughts?

Nancy Irons, UUC Treasurer  
[irons.nancy@gmail.com](mailto:irons.nancy@gmail.com)



## UUC Rear OFFICE FOR RENT

Do you know someone who would like to rent an office in our building? Michelle Johnson, who has been renting the rear office, will be relocating to the former Music Office next to the UUC Office. This means the rear office, next to the kitchen, will be available to rent in the near future. If you have any suggestion for possible renters, or would like more information, please contact the office ([churchadmin@uuccpf.org](mailto:churchadmin@uuccpf.org) or 708-481-5339).

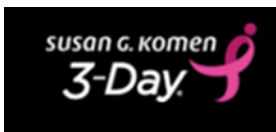
## WE NEED PICTURES!

We have once again displayed the pictures of past ministers in the hallway leading to the offices, which were taken down after the flood. If anyone has a photo or two of a few of our past ministers, Randy Becker, Yielbonzie Johnson, Anna Levy Lyons, please bring hard copies or send any digital copies you have to the office [churchadmin@uuccpf.org](mailto:churchadmin@uuccpf.org)



**ATTENTION!** We have been notified that members are receiving emails from scammers pretending to be someone from the church asking for help. **NEVER** respond or click on anything in a suspicious email. **ALWAYS** call the person to find out if it is a legitimate email.

**Reverend Tracy's walk for breast cancer is October 24-26.  
The deadline for contributions is Sept 11th.**



**JOIN ME IN THE FIGHT AGAINST BREAST CANCER.**

Rev Denise Tracy, who has been preaching here once a month for 14 years, is participating in her 3rd Susan G Komen experience. Komen raises money for care for the uninsured and for research to end breast cancer. She has set a goal of \$7,500 for this year. If you would like to support her, here is the link. Any amount would be most appreciated. <http://www.the3day.org/goto/denisetracy>



### **Solidarity Circle Update**

Solidarity Circle - Roger has continued to work in the building demolition business. He has applied to become a logistics worker, operating fork lifts, etc., at a warehouse in Joliet. Roger has a brother who works there, who thinks he can help Roger get hired. The Solidarity Circle met with Roger after church on Sunday, Aug. 20, to get a sense of Roger's plans for the future. Surprisingly, the next day he moved in with a girlfriend, which had not been mentioned at the Solidarity Circle meeting.. As of this writing it is expected that Roger will move his things out of his room at the Holcomb/Lindrup household by the end of August. Thank you, Allan Lindrup

### **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





## GREEN SANCTUARY

BY JEFF GREEN – SEPTEMBER 2025



Fenn Taylor of the Park Forest UU church started the Care for the Earth series of talks after service. After Fenn passed away, the church asked me to take over the series. 3 wonderful years went by in global warming talks of various subjects. With declining attendance to the point of no one showing up, well maybe its time to retire this topic. Then Donald Trump was elected. I gave my last talk on that very topic of DJT and care for the earth with 10 people attending. Now that DJT is back in office, it's time for the long game at the federal level. As we feared, DJT is now much more skilled in getting his way in the presidency. Today is different than 2015. Today, some aspects will keep on going in spite of his efforts. This is where I live part of the time, supporting where I can, what I would like the future of our earth to be. How do we get through 3.5 more years of authoritarian rule, dead set against our values? I put the question to Deep Seek, and below is the shortened response. Deep Seek loves to pump it out, and it was a little too much.

Begin Deep Seek Navigating the Next Few Years: A Resilient Approach to Sustainable Energy

Core Principle: The transition is now driven by economics, not just policy. Market forces, state action, and corporate demand continue to advance clean energy despite federal headwinds.

### 1. Focus on Unstoppable Trends (The Reasons for Hope)

- Economics: New wind and solar are often cheaper than new fossil fuel plants. Battery costs are plummeting. This market reality is irreversible.
- State & Local Action: Numerous states and cities have mandated 100% clean energy goals. Support these leaders; they are building the future now.
- Corporate Demand: Major companies are switching to renewables for cost savings and shareholder pressure, creating massive private-sector demand for new projects.
- Global Momentum: China and the EU are continuing massive investments in renewables, ensuring global technological and manufacturing progress continues.

### 2. Redirect Your Advocacy & Support

- Go Local: Attend city council meetings. Advocate for community solar, EV charging, energy efficiency codes, and public transit.
- Go State: Support state-level politicians and policies. Vote in state elections—they are critical for energy policy. Push for stronger state Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS).
- Support Legal Defense: Donate to NGOs (e.g., Sierra Club, NRDC) who are successfully suing in court to block the rollback of environmental regulations.

### 3. Build Personal & Community Resilience

- Lead by Example: If possible, install solar, upgrade to a heat pump, or choose a green energy provider to reduce your own footprint and demand.
- Strengthen Community: Join or start a community garden, local food co-op, or advocacy group. Build networks that are less dependent on federal politics.

**continued**

## GREEN SANCTUARY continued

### 4. Protect Your Well-being for the Long Game

- Curate Information: Avoid constant outrage. Schedule news updates instead of consuming alerts all day.
- Find Your Niche: Focus on 1-2 tangible actions where you can see real impact (e.g., volunteering, local advocacy). These fight helplessness.
- Connect with Others: Build community with like-minded people. Shared purpose provides emotional support and amplifies your efforts.

### The Bottom Line

: This period is about resilience, not defeat. Your role is to hold the line through local and state action, build the alternative in your community, and stay ready to advance federal policy when the landscape shifts. The economic and scientific imperative for sustainability will ultimately prevail. End Deep Seek

My timeline for what I hoped our country would accomplish has changed. This will just take a little longer. Some leaders are just the antithesis of what we hold as our core values. How we express ourselves in the face of this time will be our legacy that we leave behind. What we do with our bodies and spirits will have an impact on the direction of our country. I hope to join my fellow UUs every chance I can. As always, thank you for bringing in these few moments of Green Sanctuary into your reading pleasure. Jeff Green



**North American Unitarian Association**  
*Helping Liberal Religion Thrive*

The **North American Unitarian Association (NAUA)** 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.

### NAUA Monthly Academy Program Fall Kick-Off

**Sep 9, 2025 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm** [REGISTER HERE](#)

The NAUA Academy provides courses to Members of the NAUA and others interested in Unitarianism, Unitarian Universalism, and Liberal Religion. Single-session and multiple-session courses deal with the history and development of Unitarianism and Liberal Religion, as well as with issues of concern in contemporary society from a liberal religious perspective. Participation in courses is virtual, using Zoom. Sessions consist of a presentation followed by small group discussions.

**The NAUA 3rd Saturday of the month Worship Service at 12:00 Noon Central Time on September 20th. JD Stillwater will lead the Service: "One Song - the Science of Oneness"**

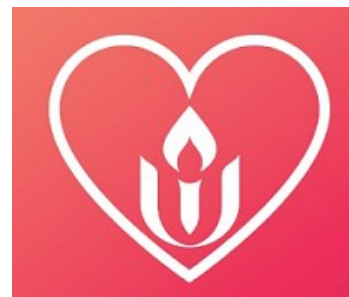
Check [HERE](#) for monthly updates. Zoom access to the Worship Service <https://tinyurl.com/NAUAService>

**NAUA Conversation/Discussion CIRCLE:** This recently launched CIRCLE meets on the **First Wednesday of each month (6:00-7:30 PM Central Time)**. The CIRCLE is designed for NAUA members and friends to gather, share ideas, spark meaningful conversations, and deepen connections. It will be facilitated by a member of the NAUA Board of Trustees, is open to all members and friends, and does not require an RSVP. The zoom link is: <https://tinyurl.com/naua-circle>.



# Connections

by Barb Anderson



Bev Feldt gave an illuminating sermon at church (in my opinion), which she has given permission to share.

August 17, 2025 [VIDEO](#)

Sermon [AUDIO](#)



There is talk of a silent auction coming to UUC in October with tables set up in the hall after church. Talk to Nancy Irons or watch for a flyer.



Sylvan Sanctuary CUUPS at UUC will host Mabon (an earth-centered, Nature festival) on September 20th, Saturday outside and in our Sanctuary. Other UU churches are coming too. There will be a craft, ceremony and a feast! Talk to Angela Denk for more information or see the flyer further in this Newsletter.

**continued**

## Connections Column continued

The Knowledge Exchange TKE at Governors State University is registering for the Fall. I'll probably take Suzanne Patterson's Film class (which is about Teachers) and maybe Genealogy or Astronomy. It's a wonderful thing to go all day Friday to Morning and Afternoon classes for 8 weeks for \$125! Lunch in the cafeteria is good too.



The Morton Arboretum in Lisle has snail, squirrel and heron sculptures plus a wildflower garden with Hummingbird Moths. My sister, Ann says they look like flying shrimp.



Rev. Dr Larry McClellan came to the Crete Area Historical Society picnic in the downtown Crete Park (near Cone Cottage). CAHS is renovating the Museum near the RR tracks on Exchange St. Tim spoke at the picnic and we all had a good time.



A friend, Joyce Sligar and I went on a [girlsroadtrip.com](http://girlsroadtrip.com) journey to the LaSalle County Heritage Corridor. Some boys came too -



namely Will Kelly from the Archeology Society of Will County.

We went on a Mule pulled, Tow Boat down the I & M Canal, visited Museums in Utica (near Starved Rock) and saw a towboat push 3 barges through the locks at the Illi-



nois Waterway Visitors Center in Ottawa IL. I saw (through a scope) swans and white Pelicans catching fish by the dam next to the locks.

# What's Happening at UUCC?



## Summer Hiatus ~ UUCC Men's Group

The group will **not** have its regular monthly meeting in September, instead we will be helping with grilling, etc. at the Sept. 7th Corn Roast. Regular meetings resume on October 5th, on the **FIRST SUNDAY of the month at 6:30PM**

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



## Tuesday, September 2nd 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

**We will meet again on Wednesday September 10th at 1:00pm**

Meetings are 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](mailto:tulip51girl@gmail.com)

## **ATTENTION! Are you concerned about the environment?**

### **Join the Multi UU Church Environmental Book Club**

This book club meets **via Zoom** on the **THIRD MONDAY EACH MONTH** starting at 7 p.m.

At the **September 15th** meeting the group will start a discussion of the environmental classic *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson. If you would like to join this group please contact Allan Lindrup at [uusj@sbcglobal.net](mailto:uusj@sbcglobal.net) or at 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](mailto:steve.mccabe6914@gmail.com)

# UUCC Annual Corn Roast

Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>  
11:30 am to 2 pm  
Burgers, Hot Dogs, Corn,  
Side Dishes, Desserts



## Corn Roast Registration and Volunteer Online Form

We will be holding our Annual Corn Roast as part of the First Sunday Pot Luck following the **Sunday** service on **September 7<sup>th</sup>**. Everyone is encouraged to register in advance to help us know how many people to expect. Corn, Burgers and Hot Dogs will be provided by UUCC. Attendees are asked to bring a side dish, dessert or drink. Volunteers are needed for setup on Saturday, cooking on Sunday as well as cleanup after the event. The online registration form can also be used to volunteer.

[Click here to register](#). We hope to see you there!

## Celebrate Mabon or the Fall Equinox

**Sylvan Sanctuary CUUPS** will be holding a family friendly **Mabon ritual and potluck on Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup> 6-9pm**. Ritual will be outside, weather permitting, so dress accordingly. Potluck will follow the ritual. Please bring a dish to share.



Mabon is the name for the Autumn Equinox, a Pagan and Wiccan harvest festival celebrating the balance of light and dark, gratitude for the harvest, and the transition to the colder months. The festival also features preparation for the coming winter, such as canning or smoking foods, preserving them for the colder months. Rituals include offerings of seasonal foods like fruits and nuts; the giving of thanks for abundance; and engaging in activities like making cider or wine.

Contact Angela for more information [sylvansanctuarycuups@gmail.com](mailto:sylvansanctuarycuups@gmail.com)



## 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](mailto:sylvansanctuarycuups@gmail.com)

[Follow us on Facebook](#)



## NEW UCC Book Discussion Group

The first meeting will take place on the second **Wednesday September 10th at 5:30 to 7:30 pm** in classroom 3.

We will begin with a general discussion about recently read books you have enjoyed. We will also discuss choosing a mutually agreed upon book to read for future discussion. Please join us! For more information contact the group facilitator Vicki Fotis 708-957-4822

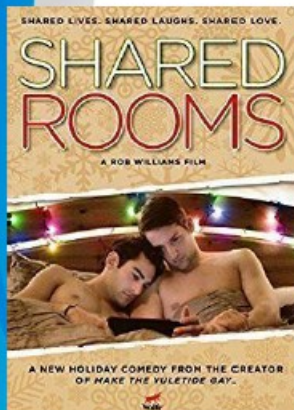


# RAINBOW CAFE

Rainbow Cafe will meet on Friday, September 19th, 2025

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

Soft drinks and snacks are served.



**SHARED ROOMS** explores the meaning of home and family through three interrelated stories of gay men finding connections during the week between Christmas and New Year's Day - a married couple who take in a teenage relative who was kicked out of his home after his parents discovered he was gay; a pair of roommates forced to share a bed for the week, much to the delight (and horror) of the one harboring a secret crush on the other; and two men looking for a quick hookup who end up finding a much stronger connection.

Genres: Comedy | Drama | Romance  
May 2016 Runtime: 1hour 15min

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



## A POSITIVITY PROJECT SUMMER SCHEDULE

**THINK LIKE A  
PROTON**



**♥STAY  
POSITIVE**

### Feeling overwhelmed? Looking for a BRIGHT SPOT?

The **POSITIVITY PROJECT** meets **September 15th 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  
**Friday, October 3rd**

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.



**~POSITIVITY PICK-UP is the last Sunday of the month~**

**HELP US BEAUTIFY THE CHURCH GROUNDS SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 28TH AT 11:30**

The Positivity Project plans to have another Sycamore Drive cleanup on September 28th after the service from 11:30-12:30. 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 with



**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**

## The Unitarian Universalist Multiracial Unity Action Council

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

For Zoom information, please send name, email, and congregation (if any)

to [richard3point@gmail.com](mailto:richard3point@gmail.com)

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

### UUMUAC 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday Worship Service September 17, 2025

**"Church of the Free Spirit" by Dr. Matthew Shear**

*What shall we call a true liberal religion? I contend that labels from past centuries will not do in our time. In this service I will explore concepts I've come to believe are essential to a workable intersection of liberalism with religion and society.*

Dr. Matthew Shear is a 1980 graduate of the New England College of Optometry and completed a post-graduate program from the Baltimore Academy for Behavioral Optometry in 2002. He has also trained as a peer counselor, eventually teaching the technique to others. His particular interest is in the effects of misperception on our understanding of ourselves and the world, and how that affects our behaviors. This focus eventually led him from clinical practice to becoming a religious professional. He began preaching lay led services in 2007, and in 2018 was engaged by Channing Church in Rockland, MA as their full time Preacher, where he served for two years. A former Board member of UUMUAC, he is still an occasional preacher of their 3rd Wednesday Vesper services and elsewhere.



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](#)

With attacks on our UU values and the democratic system itself increasing, many of us are seeing a need to ramp up our efforts. Simple **legislative advocacy** efforts like our Action of the Week emails and witness slips continue to be important, and we will continue to offer them. Actions that take more effort - like customizing your letters, making phone calls and meeting with legislators - are more impactful, and we have started offering more of these opportunities to make a difference. These will be needed as we seek to help pass crucial [climate](#) and [restorative justice](#) legislation in this October's veto session in Illinois, and to stop US funding of the genocide against the people of Gaza.

Beyond such advocacy, we know that the electoral process has a significant impact on what happens legislatively. So we are gearing up for the next round of **VoteLove** (as UUtheVote is known here in Illinois). Here, too, we will continue to offer simple actions like writing postcards to encourage people to vote. And we plan to offer actions that take more effort - like community forums, [phonebanking](#) and [knocking on doors](#) - that have been proven to be even more effective. It's not too early to consider what level of participation you're up for.

And beyond all this, we are seeing the rise of an authoritarian regime threatening our democratic system and the rule of law. Many UUs are joining the just-launched [One Million Rising](#) campaign of strategic noncooperation and nonviolent resistance. Two actions that you can take now are: [Ground Avelo Airlines](#) and [Signs of Solidarity against ICE](#). You will hear more about this campaign in the weeks and months ahead.

Join our **Statewide Action Council** [meeting at 7pm on Tuesday September 23](#) to learn more about all of these **Democracy in Action** efforts.



In the meantime, please indicate which of these you might be up for on this short form (yes, we will follow up!):

[Click HERE to join us!](#)



# SEPTEMBER 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 9:30am Yoga  	2  7pm Flowering Dogwood Martial Arts	3  7pm Yoga	4 9:30am Yoga  7pm Flowering Dogwood Martial Arts	5  	6 9:30am Online Buddhist Meditation  1PM Corn Roast Setup
7 10am Worship <b>CORN ROAST</b>  6:30p NO Men's Group until Oct.	8 9:30am Yoga	9 10:30am Stitchery Group  7pm Flowering Dogwood Martial Arts	10  5:30 UUCB Book Club 7pm Yoga	11 9:30am Yoga  7pm Flowering Dogwood Martial Arts	12  	13 9:30am Online Buddhist Meditation
14 10am Worship	15 9:30am Yoga  6pm Positivity Project Group Share Meeting 7pm Environmental Book Club (Zoom)	16 7pm Board Meeting (Zoom) 7pm Flowering Dogwood Martial Arts	17 7pm Yoga 7pm UUMUAC <b>online</b> Worship Service	18 9:30am Yoga  7pm Flowering Dogwood Martial Arts	19  7pm Rainbow Café Movie Nite	20 9:30am Online Buddhist Meditation  12 NOON NUAU online Worship 6pm CUUPs Mabon Celebration
21 10am Worship	22 9:30am Yoga	23  7pm Flowering Dogwood Martial Arts	24  7pm Yoga	25 9:30am Yoga  7pm Flowering Dogwood Martial Arts	26  	27 9:30am Online Buddhist Meditation
28 10am Worship  11:30 Positivity Pick-Up garbage around the church	29 9:30am Yoga	30  7pm Flowering Dogwood Martial Arts	Oct 1  7pm Yoga	Oct 2 9:30am Yoga  7pm Flowering Dogwood Martial Arts	Oct 3  	Oct 4 9:30am Online Buddhist Meditation



## Event Facilitators

Buddhist Meditation:	Steve McCabe	<a href="mailto:steve.mccabe6914@gmail.com">steve.mccabe6914@gmail.com</a>
Yoga:	Karen Nielsen	708-755-3577 <a href="mailto:shanti-one@comcast.net">shanti-one@comcast.net</a>
Rainbow Café:	Jerome Rowley	714-930-6134 <a href="mailto:jerome.rowley@gmail.com">jerome.rowley@gmail.com</a>
Forum:	Allan Lindrup	773-595-4921 <a href="mailto:uusj@sbcglobal.net">uusj@sbcglobal.net</a>
UU Environmental Book Club:	Allan Lindrup	773-595-4921 <a href="mailto:uusj@sbcglobal.net">uusj@sbcglobal.net</a>
Connections Group:	Irene van der Hoek	708-305-4913 <a href="mailto:tulip51girl@gmail.com">tulip51girl@gmail.com</a>
Men's Group:	Allan Lindrup	773-595-4921 <a href="mailto:uusj@sbcglobal.net">uusj@sbcglobal.net</a>
Stitchery Group:	Karen Beran	708-532-6024 <a href="mailto:greywolf2496@hotmail.com">greywolf2496@hotmail.com</a>
A Positivity Project:	Michele Johnson	708-748-0362 (Meetings, Sound bath, Labyrinth)
CUUPs - Sylvan Sanctuary	Angela Denk	<a href="mailto:sylvansanctuarycuups@gmail.com">sylvansanctuarycuups@gmail.com</a>

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](mailto:churchadmin@uuccpf.org)



**PUBLIC  
LECTURE**

.....  
**RESOURCING OUR  
RESISTANCE TO HATE**  
.....

**SEPT 9**  
6:30pm CT

## Dear Friends of Meadville Lombard,

Join us on Zoom on September 9, 2025 at 6:30pm CT for a public lecture called

### Resourcing our Resistance to Hate.

This lecture is free and open to all!

Universalist Theology offers us ethical, liturgical, and practical resources to strengthen our resolve to resist the encroaching rising hate and resentment marking our collective lives. In this lecture, Dr. Elias Ortega will mine moments from the political history of Universalists responding to their times to draw lessons and inspiration to inform our present moment.



**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
ADVOCACY NETWORK  
OF ILLINOIS**

### Beyond Rallies

In this moment of rising authoritarianism, many UUs are going beyond showing up for rallies and joining the just-launched [One Million Rising](#) campaign of strategic noncooperation and nonviolent resistance. Please let us know if you're up for this or other Democracy in Action efforts here:

### What Are You Up for Next?

Attend the [UUANI Statewide Action Council meeting at 7pm on Tuesday September 23](#) to learn more about all of our Democracy in Action efforts.

UUANI is supported by contributions from Unitarian Universalist individuals and congregations all across Illinois, and by grants from the Fund for Unitarian Universalist Social Responsibility, Side With Love and the Chicago Area UU Council. We are grateful for each of these forms of support! [Donate Here](#)

[Contact Us](#) | [Update Your Information](#)

Unitarian Universalist Advocacy Network of Illinois 1846 Harvey Ave. Berwyn, IL 60402

**Church Information**

70 Sycamore Drive

Park Forest, IL 60466

Office Phone: 708-481-5339

E-Mail: churchadmin@uuccpf.org

Website: www.uuccpf.org

**(Please contact the church office for anything related to the newsletter).**

**The newsletter deadline is always the 20th of every month.**

***\*You can help save a tree and a stamp by simply picking up your newsletter or receiving it electronically via email.***



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

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