



# focus

Volume 30, No 1

January 11, 2017

## From Your Board of Trustees (BOT)

Several years ago, this congregation voted to become a 'Green Sanctuary.' Taking that step means much more than having and supporting a Green Sanctuary Committee (GSC). We made a commitment, as a congregation, to BE a green sanctuary, to work to lessen our carbon footprint, to actively take steps, on our own and as a congregation, that demonstrate that we understand that we live on a planet with finite resources. The actions of each individual do make a difference, and the actions that we can take as many individuals bound together in action as a congregation have an even greater effect as a model in our community.

We have an active GSC. The Strategic Planning Committee found that the desire to have our congregation be a good steward of the environment was supported by many of you beyond those actively involved in that committee, so much so, that it is a part of our long-term vision for Countryside. This past month, your Board had the opportunity to take significant action to support those desires. We voted at our December meeting to contract with Hawk Energy to put solar panels on a portion of our roof, enough to generate approximately 40% of our electricity needs.

This was not a step taken lightly or casually, and it couldn't have been done without a tremendous amount of work on the part of many people. Kudos go to Alan Greenland, Mark Krivchenia and Dan Huntsha, as well as the entire GSC, for doing an extended and deep dive into researching the pros and cons of several different approaches to solar options for Countryside, and presenting that information in a clear and concise way to the board. Also thanks to Steve Black, along with others, for getting on the roof with the contractor and going into details to determine the viability and impact on our building. Mary Johnson, our treasurer checked out the company's history and talked directly with other churches that are 'going solar.'

Thanks also to the 25% of our congregation that responded in the online or written survey. The results were overwhelmingly in favor of getting solar panels and by far the largest majority believed we should act now. Many indicated the willingness to make a financial commitment that was separate from their regular commitment to CCUU. We took all of that information into consideration in making our decision. The option we chose will not have an impact on our operating budget in the short term, though it should produce significant savings in the future. It will require the least amount of fundraising. The immediate impact will be that Countryside will be saving our environment 25 tons of carbon dioxide. You can learn more about all of this from members of the GSC in the coming weeks. It is our hope and wish that, if you haven't already, you will seek out their information.

## Town Hall Meeting: January 15

Your board will be holding a Town Hall meeting on Jan. 15 after both services. We are seeking your feedback regarding the revised Mission and Vision statements that we first presented in the [November Focus](#). These statements are intended to serve as guidelines for action, including our most recent action of voting to have solar panels at Countryside. This is a time and place to discuss what we are willing to do to help keep Countryside the strong and vibrant community that it is. It is our hope that many of you will take the time to participate.

Please feel free to contact me at [prez@ccuu.org](mailto:prez@ccuu.org). ...Karen Noorani

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## Rev. Hilary on Study Leave

Our Minister, the Reverend Hilary Landau Krivchenia will be away until January 24. Rev. Krivchenia typically takes a couple of weeks of study leave in January & then scatters the remainder of her study leave through the year. She uses the time for worship planning, research, and some time with family. During that time, the pastoral needs of the congregation are tended to by the Lay Ministry Team, chaired by Ken Bobbe. In the event of a pastoral emergency, Ken or our Church Administrator will be able to reach Rev. Hilary.

## Stewardship Conversations

### *Membership Comes with Strings Attached*

(Adapted from a sermon by the Rev. Peter Friedrichs, Unitarian Universalist Church of Delaware County, 05/22/12.)

In his sermon, Rev. Friedrichs discusses the contents of an email that he received from one of his congregants, in response to an email he sent in which he asked how her family was doing, why he hadn't seen them in church all year, and why they haven't offered a pledge for next year. In that email, the congregant said, "I think we [my husband and I] are both in desperate need of a place where we can have quiet and reflection with no strings attached and we just aren't finding that at UUCDC anymore. "A place where we can have quiet and reflection with no strings attached."

Rev. Friedrichs continues: "Our faith, and membership in this church, comes with strings. To belong to this church and to be a Unitarian Universalist is to say "yes" to those strings. We say "yes" to life. We say "yes" to hope. We say "yes" to a belief that all people are worthy, all people carry a spark of the divine. And more than that, we say "yes" not just to these principles, but we say "yes" to doing the work of our faith, the work of this church, when we're asked. We can be that "place of quiet and reflection" my correspondent longs for only if, only when, we all commit ourselves to creating that place, sustaining that place, loving that place, and working that place into existence."

"I am often asked by newcomers to our church what is expected of our members, and this is what I tell them. I tell them that to be a member of this church and to claim this faith as one's own, you must do four things. First, you must commit to showing up on Sunday mornings. Worship is the central, communal act of the church, and members should participate in worship on a regular basis. Second, you must commit to actively engaging in your own spiritual growth..."

"The third thing that's required of all our members is that they will support the church financially, to the best of their ability. Generosity is an important spiritual practice, but it's not *just* a spiritual practice. It is a practical necessity. We cannot keep the lights on and the doors open, we cannot offer self-sustaining programs without your financial contribution. Give us your pledge...."

"Finally, the last string that's attached to membership, or maybe it's the first string, is that you will get involved. That you will serve others...."

"Membership comes with strings attached. Those strings bind us to the church. They bind the church to us. And most importantly, those strings bind us, each to the other. With those strings we are woven together into one body, one spirit, one united Whole. You can't sustain a congregation, or any community of meaning, without them...."

Gary LaBedz  
Chair, Stewardship Team

## Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule Change

The meeting schedule of the Board of Trustees has changed. *Beginning this month, the Board will meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month, 7 pm.* Board meetings are open to the congregation, for people who want to observe. If you want to be on the agenda, please contact the Board President at least one week prior to the Board meeting.

## Hospitality Team Potluck & Rally

**January 29, 12:30—2 pm**

*Do you want to help make CCUU a most welcoming place? Do you want to be sure that everyone who enters our doors can find a home here? Do you believe that, in these times, we need progressive, inclusive communities like ours?* Then join us for the Hospitality Team potluck and rally on January 29, 12:30 - 2pm. Team members and those eager to join a team are invited to bring a dish, share ideas, resources, and best practices for making Countryside Church a radically hospitable community of faith. To RSVP or if you have questions, please contact Tom MacTavish, [kinship@ccuu.org](mailto:kinship@ccuu.org), or Ministerial Intern Eileen Wiviott, [Intern@ccuu.org](mailto:Intern@ccuu.org).

### Sunday Morning Help Needed

Between now and the Hospitality Rally on Jan 29, church members who are willing to be the friendly, welcoming face of our community are encouraged to sign up online— [www.signupgenius.com/go/70a044ea4a72fa13-Sunday](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a044ea4a72fa13-Sunday). Please help us to foster kinship and to share the ministry of Sunday hospitality!

## Path to Community Winter Session

**Sundays, Feb 12 and 19**

This two-session class is designed for those who are seeking more information about Unitarian Universalism and Countryside Church and would like to join others in discussions about it. In the class, we share our spiritual journeys, examine the UU Seven Principles, and learn about stewardship at Countryside Church. Also, we will have an opportunity to hear from our minister, intern, Director of Lifespan Religious Education, and involved members. For those who are ready, the class is a path to membership.

The two sessions will be held on Sundays from 12:15pm to 3:00pm and will include a light lunch. If requested in advance, childcare will be available. So that we can plan food, room location, and supporting materials, please sign up at the Greeters' window in the narthex or contact Kinship Ministry co-chair Tom MacTavish, [membership@ccuu.org](mailto:membership@ccuu.org). The next Path classes will be held April 23 and 30.

## Minister's Muse

Relationship is the building material of congregational life. Being connected, deepening connections is key to a strong community. We need those relationships and supports – we need friendships and cohorts of buddies to give a context and larger meaning to our lives. We need strong connections as we strive to be a strong presence, a voice for the values of compassion, freedom, reason, and justice, and a living community in the context of these suburbs. That's why I'm such an advocate of potlucks -- they do build relationships and act, really and symbolically, to encourage people to nourish one another – body, mind, and heart.

As the minister, I need to know who folks are, how folks are doing, so that people feel a comfort and sense of connecting with me so that I can respond wisely to the needs and challenges that we face. Every so often I'll hear about a challenge someone's had that I didn't hear about at the time and they may say "I didn't want to bother you." But, really, I seek to be a companion in your lives and struggles. It means the world to me when I sit with someone and learn more about them, when I get updated on life changes, when people want to talk about virtually everything from children, school, illness, theology, sermons, finances, hopes, anxieties.

Every so often I publish a version of guidelines for when (aside from the general business of the congregation) to call the minister. But I encourage anyone here to understand that the purpose of congregational life is to build relationships and connections – and that the Board, the Ministry Council, the Staff, and I are all here to facilitate that connection, in our different ways. I'm not simply here on Sundays and for meetings. A minister's hours are a funny thing. I do have loose office hours, I have other hours that I'm available by appointment, and I'm on call for emergencies. We also have a gifted lay ministry team that I co-chair with Ken Bobbe. So here's that rather standard "when to call the minister" list.

Call the minister when...

...you or someone in the congregation is in the hospital.

...you are confined at home and would like a visit.

...there is an illness or a death in the family.

...you are struggling with a personal issue or loss that you would like to talk over.

...you are feeling depressed or troubled

...you have an important decision or life choice to make

...you want to plan a ritual—a child dedication, wedding, commitment ceremony, memorial, funeral, house blessing

...you or someone in the congregation is arrested, in jail, in need of support

...you want to explore your spiritual path or discuss a topic from a Sunday service

...you are concerned about some aspect of congregational life

If you'd like to connect with a lay minister but would like to connect with me first.

## Minister's Muse, cont'd

If you can't decide whether you should call the minister or not: *call me anyway* and ask or call Laurie Lantz in the Church office.

I don't always hear through the grapevine about significant events, and I do want to know. So, please, call! My office hours: Monday is my day off, Tuesday (at Countryside from 10-noon, other times by appointment), Wednesday (Countryside from 9-noon, other times by appointment); Thursdays (10-noon, other times by appointment); Fridays are sacrosanct for sermon writing. I'm available Saturday for wedding planning, congregational meetings, events as needed, home visits, sundry details, and finishing the sermon. Sunday is a good day to find me – at least to set up a time. I like to keep Sunday evenings open for family time. In case of critical emergency, none of these hours apply and you should call me at home right away, any time. Please. ...Hilary

## In Sympathy

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Lois and Jeff Phillips and their family on the death of Lois's mother in December.

## Family Ministry Gathering

### January 22, 12:30– 2, childcare provided

Please join us for Countryside Church UU's first Family Ministry gathering. During this meeting, we will spend time together envisioning what it means to have a vibrant and active ministry which serves the families at CCUU. During this meeting, we will discuss:

- How is Sunday morning RE for children and youth a Small Group Ministry?
- How do we support parents and their faith journey?
- Why are parents, grandparents and caregivers the primary source religious education?
- How can we build partnerships between families, our congregation, and home?
- How can we connect families walking similar journeys and build support systems for families to create and maintain an active faith in the context of family lives?

If you are interested in joining the discussion, please RSVP to Jules at [dlre@ccuu.org](mailto:dlre@ccuu.org) and note your childcare needs. See you there!

## Souper Bowl Fundraiser: February 5

Coming of Age will hold their Souper Bowl Sunday fundraiser to raise money for youth attending the Living Legacy Project Youth Civil Rights Pilgrimage, the culmination of this year's Coming of Age program. If you missed it, you can read about the Pilgrimage in the DLRE column in the [October Focus](#).

Ways you can help:

- [Sign up](#) to bring a pot of soup, bread, or equipment
- Come to church on February 5 and purchase a bowl of soup or two.

Thank you for supporting our Coming of Age program!



## Faith in Action on Jan 22

Faith in Action is a program designed to help young people in Kindergarten-12th grade put their beliefs into action. Each session begins with an opening worship;

sharing of experiences; and age-appropriate activities for service learning. The goals of Faith-in-Action are to:

- Provide opportunities for young people to experience their power to make positive difference in the world
- Experience learning and service as an integral part of our UU beliefs and practices
- Cultivate young people's natural sense of justice, empathy, and compassion

On January 22, Faith in Action will work to support Interfaith Committee for Detained Immigrants (ICDI), a non-profit faith-based organization of staff and volunteers called to respond to the suffering of adults and children affected by our broken and inhumane immigration system.

### **Collection for ICDI Now through Jan 22**

We are collecting items to create Welcome Baskets for individuals being released from immigrant detention; see the wish list below. When released, all they have are the clothes that they were wearing when they were detained, arriving to the House of Hospitality with nothing.

There will be boxes at church in which to leave your donated items.

- Men's winter boots (size 8-12)
- Gloves, hats, scarves
- Medium & large fall/winter clothing for young men
- Men's or Women's body wash, body lotion
- Hygiene kits
- Umbrellas
- strong ponchos
- U-locks with connecting rope/cord
- Basic sewing kit
- Med-Large stainless steel pots & pans for soups, stews
- Oven-safe, stainless steel catering size baking pans
- Stainless steel tongs
- wooden spoons
- Washable tablecloths (6' rectangular)
- Heavy duty stainless steel box grater
- Electric hot water kettle
- educational Jigsaw Puzzles (global, science, panoramic, art, inspirational) for 12 yrs to adult
- Lego sets for age 12 yrs to adult
- Pocket size Spanish/English dictionaries

*Thank you so much for your support of our children and youth as they learn how to make a difference, when they put their Faith in Action!*

## Workshop on Understanding Gender Feb 5, 12:30 pm

Please join the Living the Welcoming Congregation Committee (Countryside's LGBTQ Advocacy Group) for an enlightening discussion of "Understanding Gender."

Gender is something everyone thinks they understand, but most people really don't. Freed from the binary of boy and girl, gender identity is a shifting landscape. Join us as we explore that complex landscape. Gender is a tough subject to tackle. There are a lot of facets to consider, a lot of pressures at play, and we have all been conditioned in such a way that our first instinct is almost unthinkingly wrong. Together, we are going to tackle it.

Topics will include gender identity, gender expression, gender role, transgender, and gender fluidity. Quite simply, the gender spectrum represents a more nuanced, and ultimately, truly authentic model of human gender.

Few topics are more contested today than gender identity. Gender may seem simple, but the myths surrounding this concept mask its true complexity. In the fog of the culture war, complex issues like gender dysphoria are reduced to slogans and sound bites. While the war rages over language, institutions and political allegiances, transgender individuals are the ones who end up being the casualties. In a society where this crucial aspect of self has been so narrowly defined and rigidly enforced, individuals who exist outside its norms face innumerable challenges. As a liberal religious community, we are called to stand with those on the margins as they resolve their questions and concerns about gender identity.

In order for us to plan space and materials, we ask those interested in attending to pre-register. You can do that by contacting Dan Yokas or email [LWC@ccuu.org](mailto:LWC@ccuu.org).

## Reminder: Nut-free Practices

*Countryside Church has put into place restrictions around peanuts and tree nuts in our building. This practice reflects our desire to be a welcoming and safe congregation for members, friends, and visitors that have potentially life threatening allergies to peanuts or tree nuts.*

- Please do not bring any food item that contains nuts or has allergen warnings that it may contain nuts. If you are unsure, do not bring it to church.
- Check and recheck labels on all food.
- Bring snack foods that ARE peanut & tree nut safe.

We ask that everyone work together to remind each other not to bring or serve anything with peanuts or tree nuts. If a snack or food item has nuts, we will ask that it be removed and returned to your car. If we do not know who brought the nut item, we will place the item in a labeled Ziploc bag and if no one retrieves the item, it will be discarded.

*Empathy and compassion are the key elements to understanding the reason behind these practices. Thank you for assisting to make Countryside Church a more welcoming and even safer place for everyone who walks through our doors. Further details are posted in the kitchen and at <http://ccuu.org/peanut-treenut-practices/>.*

**Our worship and religious education program are on Sundays at 9:00 am & 11:00 am.**

Unless otherwise noted, young people in Kindergarten through Grade 7 attend the beginning of worship with their families; all other young people begin in their classrooms. At 9:00, we have classes for infants through Grade 6; at 11:00 for infants through Grade 12.

*NOTE: Announcements begin 5 minutes prior to the start of the worship service.*

**Worship descriptions are also on the church website: <http://ccuu.org/services/>**

**Jan 15 MLK Sunday**

**Eileen Wiviott, Ministerial Intern**

*Young people in Kindergarten through Grade 7 attend the beginning of the service with their families; all other young people begin in their classrooms.*

**Jan 22 Spiritual Journeys**

**Christine Organ, Jenny Morales, and Jeff Oremland**

Spiritual Journeys services are offered three to four times each year and are opportunities for us to hear the spiritual journey stories of congregation members. This service, we will hear from CCUU members Jenny Morales and Jeff Oremland.

*Young people begin in their classrooms for Faith in Action, our service learning program. This month, we'll be learning about and working to support Interfaith Committee for Detained Immigrants (ICDI).*

Share the Plate: Half of the cash collected in the offering will be donated to Cure Violence, working to stop the spread of violence in communities by using the methods and strategies associated with disease control—detecting and interrupting conflicts, identifying and treating the highest risk individuals, and changing social norms—resulting in reductions in violence of 40-70%. [www.cureviolence.org](http://www.cureviolence.org)

**Jan 29 to be announced**

**Kadyn Frawley**

Young people in Kindergarten through Grade 7 attend the beginning of the service with their families; all other young people begin in their classrooms.

**Feb 5 to be announced**

**Rev. Hilary Landau Krivchenia**

Young people in Kindergarten through Grade 7 attend the beginning of the service with their families; all other young people begin in their classrooms.

After worship, stay for a bowl of soup to help the Coming of Age group raise funds for their June trip; more info on p. 3.

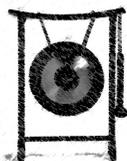
**Feb 12 to be announced**

**Rev. Hilary Landau Krivchenia**

Young people in Kindergarten through Grade 7 attend the beginning of the service with their families; all other young people begin in their classrooms.

Share the Plate: Half of the cash collected in the offering will be donated to Journeys The Road Home

**Sound Meditation ~ Feb 1, 7 pm**



Join us to chase away the chill of a cold winter's day with a sound meditation to help silence the chatter of our minds and allow space for healing. Enjoy the soothing sounds of crystal bowls, followed by waves of resounding vibrations from Paiste gongs played by Rev. Krivchenia

and Elizabeth Vestio.

Bring a mat or blanket if you would like to stretch out, or you can sit in chairs for support. Come in comfortable clothes and bring a blanket in case you get cool when you relax. Join our Meetup group, Primal Wave Sound Meditation, to receive updates on future events. Contact us at [primalwavesoundmeditation@gmail.com](mailto:primalwavesoundmeditation@gmail.com) with any questions.



**Come Sing with Us!**

If you like to sing and will commit to most of the rehearsals, please consider joining the choir. Rehearsals are most Thursdays 7:15-9:15pm; childcare can be provided. Contact Alison Vernon, [Music.Director@ccuu.org](mailto:Music.Director@ccuu.org) or 847-359-8440, X 5.

**Social Action**

**Next Meeting: Jan 15, 12:30**

All are welcome to join us in room 2. Please bring simple offerings for a potluck. Remember, no food with nuts!

**UU Common Read Discussion: Jan 17**

All are welcome to join us on Jan. 17 at 7 pm to discuss The Third Reconstruction: Moral Mondays, Fusion Politics, and the Rise of a New Justice Movement by the Rev. Dr. William J. Barber. *The book is available for purchase in the church office.*

**Monthly Fair Trade: Jan 22**

Once/month we offer fair trade chocolate, coffee, tea, cocoa, olive oil, and snacks from Equal Exchange for sale. For each pound of Equal Exchange foods purchased, 20 cents goes to the [UUSC's Small Farmer Fund](#).

**Help Provide PADS Dinner on Jan 25**

To provide part of this month's meal (it's vegetarian), sign up online at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a044ea4a72fa13-january>. Food needs to be delivered to Presbyterian Church of Palatine on Jan 25 between 10am and 4pm. Contact Angelina Huntsha, [akhuntsha@hotmail.com](mailto:akhuntsha@hotmail.com) or 847-845-9581, with questions. Thank you for your generosity and commitment to serve our wider community.

## Upcoming Church Meetings &amp; Events: January-February

Jan 11, 2017

| Sun  | Mon  | Tue  | Wed  | Thu   | Fri   | Sat   |
|--|--|--|--|---|---|---|
| <p><i>This calendar shows upcoming Church meetings &amp; events. All meetings and events held in the building are listed on the church website, under Events &amp; Rentals - <a href="http://www.ccuu.org/programs-and-events/calendar">http://www.ccuu.org/programs-and-events/calendar</a>. If your meeting or event is not listed, please submit a room reservation form (available in the office or on the website with the calendar) to the office.</i></p> |  |  |  |   |   |   |
| <b>Jan 15</b><br><b>8:45 am</b> Open Forum<br><b>9 &amp; 11am</b> Worship & Relig. Education<br><b>10am &amp; Noon</b> Town Hall Mtg and Fellowship<br><b>12:20pm</b> 20-30 Somethings<br><b>12:30pm</b> 40-50 Somethings<br><b>12:30pm</b> Social Action Mtg<br><b>6:15pm</b> Book Circle: <i>Cooked</i>  | <b>16 MLK Day</b><br>7am-meet @CCUU to carpool for MLK Faith in Action Assembly    | <b>17</b><br><b>10am</b> Wellness House Yoga<br><b>7pm</b> UU Common Read Book Discussion<br><b>7pm</b> Soul Intentions Tues Cov Grp | <b>18</b><br><b>7pm</b> Finance Ctte<br><b>7pm</b> Beloved Conversations Grp<br><b>7pm</b> Soul Intentions Weds Cov Grp                                    | <b>19</b><br><b>7pm</b> Soul Intentions Fri Cov Grp ( <i>mtg on Thurs just this month</i> )<br><b>7:15pm</b> Church Choir Rehearsal | <b>20</b><br><b>10am</b> Memoir Makers                                    | <b>21</b><br>TBA Circle Suppers   |
| <b>Jan 22</b><br><b>8:45 am</b> Open Forum<br><b>9 &amp; 11am</b> Worship & Relig. Education<br><b>10am &amp; Noon</b> Fair Trade monthly sale & Fellowship<br><b>12:30pm</b> Family Ministry Mtg  | <b>23</b>  | <b>24</b><br><b>10am</b> Wellness House Yoga<br><b>7pm</b> Board of Trustees Mtg   | <b>25</b><br><b>10a-4p</b> PADS Meal Delivery to Presby Church of Palatine<br><b>10am</b> Great Books Discussion Group<br><b>7pm</b> Beloved Conversations | <b>26</b><br><b>10am</b> Transitions<br><b>7:15pm</b> Church Choir Rehearsal  | <b>27</b><br><b>7pm</b> Mary Oliver Poetry Series                         | <b>28</b><br><b>9:30am</b> Feminine Divine Women's Group<br><b>10am</b> Regional RE & Social Justice Workshop<br><b>7pm</b> Drum Circle |
| <b>Jan 29</b><br><b>8:45 am</b> Open Forum<br><b>9 &amp; 11am</b> Worship & Relig. Education<br><b>10am &amp; Noon</b> Coffee/Fellowship<br><b>12:30pm</b> Hospitality Team Potluck & Rally  | <b>30</b><br><b>10am</b> Focus deadline<br><b>7pm</b> Last Mondays Book Discussion | <b>31</b><br><b>10am</b> Wellness House Yoga<br><b>7pm</b> Experiencing God Cov Grp  | <b>Feb 1</b><br><b>7pm</b> Sound Meditation<br><b>7pm</b> Black Lives Matter Team Mtg  | <b>Feb 2</b><br><b>7:15pm</b> Church Choir Rehearsal  | <b>Feb 3</b>  | <b>Feb 4</b><br><b>9am</b> auction event: kumihimo workshop<br><b>10am</b> Wellness House Hypnosis Group                                |
| <b>Feb 5</b><br><b>8:45 am</b> Open Forum<br><b>9 &amp; 11am</b> Worship & Relig. Education<br><b>10am &amp; Noon</b> Souper Bowl Lunch & Fellowship<br><b>10am &amp; Noon</b> Intro to CCUU<br><b>12:20pm</b> 20-30 Somethings<br><b>12:30pm</b> Gender Identity Workshop   | <b>6</b>   | <b>7</b><br><b>10am</b> Wellness House Yoga<br><b>7pm</b> Ministry Council Mtg   | <b>8</b><br><i>Focus publication</i><br><b>10am</b> Transitions Great Books Group<br><b>7pm</b> Finance Ctte<br><b>7pm</b> Beloved Conversations Grp       | <b>9</b><br><b>7:15pm</b> Church Choir Rehearsal  | <b>10</b><br><b>10am</b> Memoir Makers<br><b>7pm</b> Movies with Meaning? | <b>11</b><br>TBA Circle Suppers   |
| WomanSpirit Conf in DeKalb Feb 3-5   |  |  |  |   |   |   |

## Transitions



The mission of the Transitions group is to provide a forum for mature adults to explore life transitions with a supportive community during daytime hours.

### Monthly Program & Lunch

We meet the 4th Thursday of the month at 10 am. The program begins about 10:15 and is followed by a pot-luck lunch. Bring a dish to share or if you prefer, your individual lunch. Also, if you wish, bring a friend. All are welcome!

### Memoir Makers: 2nd Fridays, 10 am

Our next meeting is Fri., Jan 13 in classroom #1. In addition to sharing any new writings by members, we will continue viewing *The Art of Storytelling*. For more information, contact Tom MacTavish.

### Great Books Reading Group

We meet the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the month, 10 am-Noon. We are beginning a new book of short stories this month. For information, contact Gloria Kinney.

## Book Discussions

### Book Circle: Jan 15 & Feb 19

All are welcome to join us in classroom 6 for our upcoming discussions:

- Sun., Jan 15: Cooked: A Natural History of Transformation by Michael Pollan
- Sun, Feb 19: The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism by Naomi Klein

We gather at 6:15 and discussion begins at 6:30. We are always happy to welcome new people!

### UU Common Read: Jan 17

All are welcome to join us on Jan. 17 at 7 pm to discuss The Third Reconstruction: Moral Mondays, Fusion Politics, and the Rise of a New Justice Movement by the Rev. Dr. William J. Barber. *The book is available for purchase in the church office.*

### Last Mondays Book Group: Jan 30

All are invited to join us on Jan 30 at 7 pm in the Stokes Room to discuss The Readers of Broken Wheel Recommend by Katarina Bivald. In February, we will discuss Ready Player One by Ernest Cline.

## Mary Oliver Poetry Series—New Day!

### 4th Friday, 7 pm

For 2017, the Poetry Series will meet on the 4th Friday of the month at 7:00 pm in classroom 6. Each evening a featured poet will read his or her own poetry followed by an opportunity for audience members to read during an open mike session. On January 27, the featured poet will be Countryside's own Kimberly Tilford. The readings are open to the public and all who love poetry are welcome. We hope you'll join us!

## 20-30 Somethings

### 1st & 3rd Sundays

If you are in your 20s or 30s, please join us on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month at 12:20 in classroom 4. Child-care is available during the meetings. For more info or to be added to our email list, send an email to 2030s@ccuu.org.

## 40-50 Somethings: Jan 15

This new group, for those too old for the 20-30s group but not yet ready to join the Transitions Group, will have an initial meeting on Sun, Jan 15, 12:30 pm in classroom 6. Please bring your ideas and suggestions!

## Atheist, Humanist, Agnostic (AHA) Discussion Group

### 2nd Tuesdays, 7 pm

All are welcome to join us in classroom 4. Our tentative topic for Feb 14 is guest speaker Melanie Terbovic on Buddhism.

## Feminine Divine Women's Group

### Last Saturdays, 9:30 am

This year, we are reading and discussing Daring Greatly by Brené Brown. On Jan 28, we will discuss chapter 4. The group is open to newcomers. For more info, contact Wendy Ingrassia.

## Sacred Heartbeat Drum Circle

### Sat, Jan 28, 7 pm

Adults and teens are invited to join us in Atherton Hall for free-style drumming in a low key, peaceful, welcoming environment. No drumming experience necessary! Please bring your instrument(s); some limited hand percussion is available to share. *Note: we are not meeting in December.* For more info, visit [www.PalatineDrumCircle.com](http://www.PalatineDrumCircle.com).

## Open Forum Discussion

Forum meets each Sunday to discuss "the issues of the day" while respectfully welcoming different perspectives. We meet in classroom 5 at 8:45 am and socialize for 15 minutes before discussing the day's topic from 9:00 to 10:00 am. To be added to the Forum email list to receive supporting materials for the discussions, contact Vid Axel.

Future topics are tentative. The ones that are scheduled for the upcoming two Sundays are the least likely to change, but current events developments or other factors sometimes inspire us to switch.

- Jan 15: Rape & Society, part 2—Justice for Offenders
- Jan 22: Tibet under China's rule
- Jan 29: Philanthropy, churches asking for money, and evaluating charities
- Feb 5: amending the constitution with Republican power?
- Feb 12: a single, global time zone?

## What does it mean to be a People of Prophecy?

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Prophets are known for their condemnation. Images of an angry bearded man shouting and predicting God's judgment come to mind. For Unitarian Universalists, the prophetic voice has always been less about shouting, "You're evil!" and more about pointing out, "We're all asleep!" The prophetic message, for us, is not so much "Repent!" but "Wake up!"

We need prophetic communities now more than ever. As Rebecca Parker says, we need circles of brave and bold people who are willing "to see what is happening, to say what is happening, and to act in accordance with what they know." Which means that being a community of prophecy is not just about helping people wake up to each other's realities and fears; there is also the matter of waking up to and being wide-eyed about the need for resistance. Most of the time, holy work is about finding common ground among differing world views. But sometimes, holy work is about prophetic judgment and knowing when some views need to be opposed. As that activist said, "I am not crushed. I am awake."

So many ways to wake up. So many people who need us to do so. Sleep is no longer a luxury. In the end, maybe that is the most prophetic message of all.

*As always, don't treat these questions like "homework" or a list to be covered in its entirety. Simply pick the question that "hooks" you most and let it lead you where you need to go. The goal of the questions is not to help you analyze in the abstract, but to figure out what a deeper awareness of story means for your daily living. So, which question is calling to you and contains "your work"?*

1. Who has been a prophetic oracle to you? Whose voice has influenced, and thus, predicted your future? Is it still doing so? *Every man is hero and an oracle to somebody, and to that person, whatever he says has an enhanced value.* ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson
2. What are you willing to being driven into the desert for? *The ones we call the prophets were the ones jailed and driven into the desert.* ~Noam Chomsky
3. How is Beauty calling you to a new future? *Beauty is the oracle that speaks to us all.* - Luis Barragan
4. What would it look like for you to remember? *The biblical prophet didn't so much predict the future as to speak for God in a world that has gone askew by forgetting ...something essential.* - Peter Santucci
5. Have you domesticated your prophets? Is your "cloud of prophetic witnesses" really just an echo chamber? *Avoid the bad habit of domesticating the prophet of your choice, turning him into a cheerleader for your way of thinking and way of life.* ~Parker Palmer
6. Which Martin Luther King Jr. do you celebrate? (*Martin Luther King Was a Radical, Not a Saint:* <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/peter-dreier/martin->

[luther-king-was-a- 1 b 6498740.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/peter-dreier/martin-luther-king-was-a-radical-not-a-saint-1-b-6498740.html)

7. Are your New Year's resolutions too small? Are they really big enough to bring down your bully? *The best way to [predict] any future is to cause one... The future isn't a pattern laid out to abuse and bully you. The future is a beautiful playground...* - L. Ron Hubbard
8. What New Year's resolution will make life feel like a playground again? *The best way to [predict] any future is to cause one... The future isn't a pattern laid out to abuse and bully you. The future is a beautiful playground...* - L. Ron Hubbard
9. How has the election of President Trump "mugged you with truth"? *You can tell the future? More like the future mugs me from time to time.... The oracle spirit kind of hijacks me once in a while, and speaks important stuff.* ~Rick Riordan
10. On Inauguration Day, what would it take for you to believe in "maybe"? (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OX0OARBqBp0>)
11. What's your wave? *It is a mistake to see [the prophet] as an isolated, heroic individual. It is better to see him/her as the crest of a wave.* -Rev. Dr. Rebecca Ann Parker
12. Is your prophetic engagement with or without love? *If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.* - 1 Corinthians 13:2

## Create Monthly Themed Art

Is your Inner Artist looking for a project? Each month, we invite congregants of all ages to create an original piece of art that represents what the monthly theme means to you. We will display your offerings throughout the church building, protecting anything fragile in our locked display case. Any kind of art: fiber art, ceramics or pottery, metalwork, woodworking, paintings, photography, poetry, sculpture, etc.

The last Sunday of each month, we ask you to collect your artwork from that month and to bring your **original** art which shows what the upcoming theme means to you. The next few months' schedule is listed below. Contact Alison Vernon or Lois Phillips with questions.

- Jan 29: bring *Identity* artwork for February
- Feb 26: bring *Risk* artwork for March
- Mar 26: bring *Transformation* artwork for April



## Wellness House

### **Cancer Support in Palatine**

Wellness House and CCUU partner to offer cancer patients and their loved ones support services at CCUU. *The programs are free, but registration is re-*

*quired. To register, contact Kelli Mitchell, 630-654-5197 or [kmitcell@wellnesshouse.org](mailto:kmitcell@wellnesshouse.org).*

**Stress Management Through Deep Hypnosis**, on the 1st Saturday of the month at 10 am. Hypnotism is used to promote healing, emotional resilience, & comprehensive stress management.

**Healthy Living ~ Mindful Yoga.** Cancer patients and their loved ones are invited to nurture your entire being with mind/body movement Tuesdays, 10-11 am, beginning January 10.

## Our Winter Weather Closing Policy

If the decision is made to close the church, we will publicize the decision:

- on the church website,
- on the church Facebook page,
- on the Congregational Administrator's voicemail message (847-359-8440 ext 1), and
- with the Emergency Closing Center (which publicizes on the local TV and radio stations).

Guidelines considered when making the decision: If the wind chill in the greater Chicago area is colder than 40 degrees below zero or if a weather emergency has been issued because of snow or wind, we will cancel all church events, including any committee meetings, office hours, Sunday morning religious education, and Sunday worship.

CCUU puts a high priority on the safety of staff, members, and guests. Although the church may remain open, individuals may find that their local conditions make it unsafe for them to travel. *When in doubt, please stay home!*

## Alternate Methods of Giving to CCUU

If you prefer credit card or online giving to writing a check, there are a couple of options for giving to CCUU:

### **Countryside Express**

If you would like to make regular monthly payments via credit card or via automatic withdrawal from your checking or savings, a form is available [on the church website](#) or in the church office. Submit the completed form to the congregational administrator for processing.

### **Manage your giving online**

Giving online is easy and allows you to make one-time or recurring contributions and to view your complete online giving history from anywhere you have access to the Internet. Simply follow these easy steps: Visit the church website at [www.ccuu.org](http://www.ccuu.org); Click on the Donate Now button; Click on the Create Profile button; then Follow the onscreen instructions.

### **Give by Text Message**

You can also give via text message. Contact the church office, [ccuu@ccuu.org](mailto:ccuu@ccuu.org).

## Regional Workshop at Countryside

**Jan 28, 10 am-3:30 pm**

### **Religious Education & Social Justice in our (dis)connected World**

Theme speakers:

- **RE track: Karen Bellavance-Grace.** Regional Staff for the New England Region, Karen is also the previous Director of Faith Formation and the author of Full Week Faith, which proposes a new approach to our ministries of faith formation in response to the social, demographic, technological, and spiritual realities of 21st century America.
- **Social Justice Track: Scott Aaseng**, Executive Director of Unitarian Universalist Action Network of Illinois and **Nancy Combs-Morgan**, MidAmerica Regional Staff. Scott and Nancy have been leading congregations in Social Justice Empowerment workshops, to help congregations reimagine their work in sustainable, connected, and effective ways.

Fees: \$20/person. Register by: Jan 23 at

<https://www.midamericauua.org/events/calendar2/eventdetail/640/-/reaching-beyond-workshop-in-palatine-il>

## MidAmerica Regional Assembly

**April 28-30 in Oak Brook ~ mark your calendar!**

In spite of our small numbers in the national religious scene, Unitarian Universalists have been at the forefront of every significant social change in our nation's history. Now, more than ever, we need to work with partners to have an impact in our cities, states and country.

Our Keynote Speaker will be Rev. Dr. Lee Barker, President and Professor of Ministry at Meadville-Lombard Theological School! Rev. Dr. Barker's topic will be To Multi-faith: A Verb. Unitarian Universalism is perfectly situated to promote constructive multi-faith engagement for increased understanding and enhanced harmony. Success will depend on a new understanding of what it means to "be engaged."

We'll also have a forum with the UUA Presidential candidates, and Children's Programming is planned for ages 3-12. Early bird registration and deadline for children's registration is April 5. Final registration deadline: April 21. More details available at <https://www.midamericauua.org/events/regional-assembly/2604-regional-assembly-2017>

- Find ways for your congregation to put its faith in action.
- Ways to join with other faith communities or community groups to improve something in your locality.
- Share what you have learned about working with partners.

Plan now to join us there!

# Focus

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Ken Bobbe, Coordinator

Karen Greenland Joy Simon  
Barbara Griggs Chris Smith  
Kathi Hillyer Kimberly Tilford  
Melanie Schikore

For assistance from Lay or Care Ministry,  
please call Ken or Rev. Hilary.

## Our Covenant

We unite to strengthen the bonds of kinship among all persons, to promote human dignity, and to increase reverence for life's creating, sustaining, and transforming power through worship, study, and service.

## Our Vision

We come together as a congregation to inspire our quests for the spiritual, ethical, and meaningful in life and to advance respect, compassion, and justice in the wider world.

## Our Mission

Countryside is seen as the growing voice and source of liberal religion in the northwest Chicago suburbs by...

- creating a place of inclusiveness, welcome, connectedness, compassion and respect
- providing for the spiritual and intellectual growth of members of all ages
- cultivating a vital future for our congregation and community through thoughtful stewardship of our financial resources and our environment
- acting on a social conscience

## Upcoming Focus Deadlines

Submit all articles by 10 am to [ccuu@ccuu.org](mailto:ccuu@ccuu.org)

- ◆ Jan 30 (to be publ Feb 8)
- ◆ Feb 27 (to be publ Mar 8)
- ◆ Mar 27 (to be publ Apr 5)

Between *Focus* issues, written communication is via E-Updates & the *Sunday Times* insert to the Order of Worship. Submission deadline for e-updates & *Sunday Times* is Weds at 9 am.

Return Service Requested  
Time-dated Material—Prompt Delivery Requested

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