**From Your Board of Trustees**

Our Annual Meeting is fast approaching on May 20th – and we need you there! In our UU faith, we are each responsible for sustaining Countryside through our participation in the democratic process. One of the privileges and responsibilities of being a member of Countryside is to have a voice and a vote at our Annual Meeting.

Our meeting will include updates on our ministries and programs, as well as news about leadership and budget issues for the upcoming church year. In addition to recognizing our exceptional staff, we'll take stock of our financial health. We will vote on the leadership slate for the 2018-19 church year, as well as on the proposed budget. The board will also provide an update on the North Property and where we go from here.

Together with the Budget Team, the board has spent a considerable amount of time assessing ways in which to enable our financial wellbeing. As a result, along with the proposed budget, there will also be a proposed Reinstatement List, which includes a list of priorities to be fulfilled should we conclude the 2018-19 church year ahead of budget. We don’t consider these “cuts” but rather delayed expenses since we aspire to complete the year ahead of budget.

We have provided preliminary information regarding this year’s Stewardship Drive to you at Town Hall meetings and in previous Focus Articles, as well as providing considerations regarding the status of the North Property and/or a possible Capital Campaign. We strive to be as transparent as possible as we work towards building a long-term sustainable future for our congregation.

At least 10 days before our annual meeting, all members will have available to them Countryside’s Annual Report and the proposed budget for the 2018-19 year. We ask that you please read through these materials in advance of our meeting so you come with the background information needed to ask informed questions, and after hearing the information we have to share at the meeting, you will be ready to make informed decisions.

Please feel free to contact me at prez@ccuu.org. I am happy to sit down with any individual or any group leading up to the annual meeting that has questions or concerns. ...Christine Organ, Board President

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### Congregational Annual Meeting: May 20, 11 am

The Congregational Annual Meeting will be held at 11:00 am on Sunday, May 20, immediately following the 10:00 am church service. Childcare will be provided.

The annual meeting is a gathering of the full congregation to hear updates on current programming and news about planning for our next church year, to vote on the budget for the upcoming fiscal year, and to meet and vote on the slate of candidates for the Board and other positions.

*The leadership slate presented by the Nominating Committee on April 20 is included on page 3. Watch for the meeting agenda and final proposed budget to be emailed on May 10.*

As stated in our By-Laws, Article V-2-a, *The right to vote at a business meeting of CCUU shall be reserved to those holding membership in CCUU for a minimum of 31 days; who have made a financial pledge to support CCUU in the current fiscal year; and, if a member for a year or more, have within the past 12 months made a contribution towards their pledge, or have been granted an exemption by the board.*

You are welcome and invited to attend whether you are a voting member, a friend, or simply learning more about Countryside Church Unitarian Universalist. It is a chance to witness our 5th Principle (the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process) in action!

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**Summer Schedule**

**Begins May 20**

~ONE service @ 10 am~

From the 3rd Sunday in May through Labor Day, there is ONE worship service and religious education program at 10:00 am.
Minister’s Muse

The Congregational theme for the month of May is creativity. It’s just a word, but it’s a word with profound meaning to me, so I look forward to this month and its focus. I first really, truly encountered "creativity" in college, when I read the work of Rollo May. It was in a course focused on creativity and artistry in the context of society. For a young person, Rollo May's writing spoke to my own passion, my yearning for a more just society, my own wish to live my life fully and deeply. His words were a challenge to the ways in which I had thought about myself.

Thinking about the theme for this month, I cannot help but think about the condition of our society and our world and I know that what will save us – though saving is a relative idea by which I do not mean something that will return us to some idealistic form of a dreamed of past – what will help us, what can heal us, and what can empower us will be the deepest creativity that we can imagine. It is all too easy to fall back on or to reach for the tools that have worked in the past – or that have appeared to work in the past. But those same tools will not work, generally speaking, at least not used in the same way.

Instead of the old tools, we need to engage in imagining that spans generations. We need to do this because society and technology is changing so fast that if we do not have a sense of the past, present, and future all at once and in dialogue with one another we will not have the resources for true creativity.

What I love – among other things, though near the top of the list – about congregational life is that it offers a community that exists in covenant, in commitment, and an ethical conscience. And, if the members of that Congregational community, truly give themselves into it and open up to one another spiritually and intellectually, then it brings into reality that thinking and visioning and imagining that spans generations. At its best, particularly in Unitarian Universalist congregations, the congregation exists to turn out people, to raise people who can think creatively, who can contribute creatively to society and to history. And yet, to meet our moment in history we have to do better than the bests that have come before.

At the Sustainable Energy Expo, I mentioned Joanna Macy’s idea of active hope. That is what we need to foster now – and what I believe I see us beginning to foster here now. Active hope has three steps: “First, we take a clear view of reality; second, we identify what we hope for in terms of the direction we'd like things to move in or the values we’d like to see expressed; and third, we take steps to move ourselves or our situation in that direction.” So wrote Joanna Macy. In this place, we need to do those three things and we need always to remind ourselves of our principles and ethics so that we can articulate what we hope for in such a way that we can, in fact, work toward it.

I wish that the fact that active hope has three steps meant that it was easy, but it isn’t. All three steps are achingly challenging. And all of them require what I would call creative courage. I wish you creative courage in these days.

Dogmatism of all kinds—scientific, economic, moral, as well as political—are threatened by the creative freedom of the artist. This is necessarily and inevitably so. We cannot escape our anxiety over the fact that the artists together with creative persons of all sorts, are the possible destroyers of our nicely ordered systems. (p. 76)

~ Rollo May, The Courage to Create

Chicago Area UU Spring Workshop
May 12, 9am-2pm at CCUU

The Chicago Area UU Council has organized a day of coordination, collaboration, communication, and celebration for congregational leaders, staff, and clergy. Given the limited volunteer, professional, clergy, and financial resources, the spring workshop is aimed at finding ways to leverage best practices, partner, and limit "re-inventing the wheel." We are looking to create ways for people across the greater Chicago area that shares common interests to find each other so they can work together in community.

To promote the richest collaboration and best use of our time together, we ask participants to complete the workshop pre-work as best as possible and to return the pre-work form to CAUUC by April 28 so it can be used to help tailor the workshop. That will provide time to incorporate some of the best practices into the panel and breakout sessions. Please join us!

A donation of $8 is requested to help cover snack and lunch items. Register online: uuchicagoarea.org/workshop

Intro to CCUU ~ 1st Sundays
Newcomers are invited to attend a brief orientation to Countryside Church and Unitarian Universalism. It is offered the 1st Sunday of each month following either worship service.

Path to Belonging
June 3 & 10, 11:15 am-1:30 pm
These classes are an opportunity to learn more about CCUU and more about the meaning of membership and to get to know others. Our minister, staff, and lay leaders provide exercises and opportunities to explore what you are seeking at CCUU and to discover the freedom and diversity of our faith.

It’s helpful to take both classes in the same session, but you can take one in one session and one in another. Sign up at the greeter window or email Tom MacTavish, Membership@ccuu.org.
2018-19 Leadership Slate

Listed here is the slate of candidates put forth by the Nominating Committee for the upcoming church year. **The church membership will vote at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 20 at 11 am**. The nominees, if elected, will assume their positions on July 1. These candidates were thoughtfully selected and recruited by our Nominating Committee, and we are confident that they will serve our church well, with both skill and compassion.

From the By-Laws, Article X-3: Additional nominations for all elected positions may be made by petition of at least ten percent (10%) of CCUU membership. Petitions shall be filed with the Secretary of the Board at least ten (10) days prior to the business meeting convened for their election.

*NOTE: There will be one worship service & religious education program at 10:00 am from the 3rd Sunday in May through Labor Day. On May 20, the Annual Meeting will immediately follow the one worship service.*

Board of Trustees

Nominees for the Board of Trustees:

- President-elect: Maryanne O’Dowd [1-yr term as Pres-elect, will then serve a 2-year term as President]
- Vice President: duRee Bryant [1st year of 2-year term]
- Trustee: Karen Epps [1st year of 2-year term]
- Trustee: George Motto [1st year of 2-year term]
- Trustee: Jeanie Michalec [1st year of 2-year term]

Continuing on the Board of Trustees:

- President: Christine Organ (2nd year of 2-year term)
- Treasurer: Marcus White (2nd year of 2-year term)
- Secretary: Kathi Hilyer (2nd year of 2-year term)
- Trustee: Kristin Huston (2nd year of second 2-year term)
- Trustee: Joy Simon (2nd year of second 2-year term)

Endowment Committee

from the By-Laws, Article VII, Sec 5: The Endowment Committee shall consist of five voting members, members of the Congregation, elected at an Annual Meeting of the Congregation for five-year (5) staggered terms such that one member is elected each year and no member shall serve more than two consecutive terms. Nominations to the Committee shall be made in the same manner as for members of the Board of Trustees. The Parish Minister and President of the Board of Trustees shall be nonvoting members of the Committee. In the event of a vacancy, the Board of Trustees shall appoint a member to fill the vacancy until the next Annual Meeting.

Nominee for the Endowment Committee:

1. Laura Corrigan (1st year of 5-year term)

Continuing on the Endowment Committee:

2. Chris Hitchcock (2nd year of 5-year term)
3. Tony Prettto (3rd year of 5-year term)
4. Lois Phillips (4th year of 5-year term)
5. Bridget Toth (5th year of 5-year term)

Nominating Committee

From the ByLaws, Article X-4: The Nominating Committee shall consist of seven (7) members. Six shall serve for a term of two (2) years. Each shall be eligible for reelection to one (1) additional term. One member shall be appointed each year by the Board of Trustees to serve for a one-year term. No Nominating Committee member may serve more than four years of continuous service.

Three members shall be elected at the Annual Congregational Meeting each year. The Convener of the Nominating Committee shall be selected by the President from those directly elected by the Congregation to the Nominating Committee.

Nominees for the Nominating Committee:

1. Jeff Phillips [1st year of second 2-year term]
2. Cheryl Stephanopoulos [1st year of 2-year term]
3. Karen Noorani [1st year of 2-year term]

Continuing on the Nominating Committee:

1. Debbie Lee [2nd year of 2-year term]
2. Ryan Schaafges [2nd year of 2-year term]
3. Phil Goldberger [2nd year of 2-year term, originally filled by Tim Reuter-Bowers]

We would like to thank those members who are completing their service for their commitment to the work of Countryside Church:

- Peggy Simonsen – Board Vice President, completing Sheryl Skifstad’s term when Sheryl moved out of state earlier this year
- Mike Berry – Board Member
- Kay Gredell – Endowment Committee
- Bruce Bezella – Nominating Committee
- Jessica Gardner – Nominating Committee
- Karen Greenlane – Board appointee to Nominating Committee

Watch for Annual Report on May 10

When Countryside’s 2018 annual report comes out later this month, we hope you’ll notice something different – a more image-centric format for telling our church community’s story.

We’re working to create a rich and colorful narrative about Countryside, one that is eye catching, contemporary, and stands out from all the information flooding inboxes and social media feeds these days. Countryside’s worship, religious education, music, and many ministries and groups have amazing stories worth sharing. Images help us reach more people with those stories.

This year’s annual report is just the beginning – by next year, the annual report should make a full transition to a revamped format. Until then, we’ll be using more imagery and photos all year long on the website, CCUU’s social media platforms and other communications. Words still matter, you just see less of them.
Our Worship Services are held on Sunday mornings at 9:00 and 11:00. Unless indicated otherwise below:

- At 9:00, all young people attend the service with their families; childcare will be available.
- At 11:00, young people in kindergarten through grade 6 attend the beginning of the service with their families; all other young people begin in their classrooms. Religious Education classes are offered for infants through senior high.

   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/](http://ccuu.org/services/)

**May 6**  **Fighting for the Imagination**  The Rev. Hilary Landau Krivchenia

*Share the Plate: Half of the cash collected in the offering will be donated to Chicago Area Center for Arts & Technology.*

**May 13**  **The Mother Within**  The Rev. Hilary Landau Krivchenia

*Our one-service summer schedule begins May 20 and continues through Labor Day**

**May 20 at 10:00 am**  **The Divinity School Address**  The Rev. Hilary Landau Krivchenia

This is the last day of 17-18 academic year religious education classes.

*Please plan to stay after service on May 20 for our Annual Congregational Annual Meeting.*

**May 27 at 10:00 am**  **What Dr. Frankenstein Got Right**  The Rev. Dr. C. Scot Giles

*Share the Plate: Half of the cash collected in the offering will be donated to Hart of a Marine Foundation. Young people attend the worship service with their families; childcare for infants and preschoolers will be available.*

**June 3 at 10:00 am**  **All-Church Flower Communion**  The Rev. Hilary L. Krivchenia

*Please bring a flower or a few flowers from home to share. A Unitarian tradition begun by Norbert Capek, the Flower Communion celebrates the beauty of our diversity and our hope for continued blossoming as a community of spirit. This is an All-Church Service; young people attend the worship service with their families; childcare for infants and preschoolers will be available.*

**June 10 at 10:00 am**  **Pride Service**  Living the Welcoming Congregation Team

**Calling all techies who love worship and who want to help us share our message!!**

As a congregation, we need to be better at getting our message out beyond the walls of the sanctuary, on a regular basis. We want to be the big, bright beacon that we CAN be, and the way we’ve chosen is through YouTube and Social Media; you can’t hide a message like ours buried under a bushel (NOI).

We are building a larger team of folks to run our audiovisuals on Sunday mornings (sound, camera, and background slides). Graphics and content are created by the worship leader and others, however, the AV, a vital aspect of the service, needs someone to run it from the back of the sanctuary or with a portable remote. We use high end equipment that is user friendly and mostly automated. This is both less complicated and more fun than you might think. Being on the team is a great way to update one’s knowledge of how these things work – as well as being instrumental in sharing our faith.

If/ when you are interested, please email Jeff Phillips (soundpro@gmail.com) or Rev. Hilary (minister@CCUU.org). When we build a strong team, we will hold a training and a refresher for anyone else interested. The more the merrier.

**For a Great Seder**

As usual, we had too much food - which is good. The soup was outstanding. The music added so much to the event - lots of fun. Those who have been working on this event for years were joined by a few new folks. Thank you to all the people who helped make this a wonderful event: Carol & Ken Bobbe, Peggy & Mike Graves, Diane & Alan Johnson, Susan Auld, Linda Kuna, Karen Epps, Lois & Jeff Phillips, Edie Reese & Phil Goldberger, Linda & Mike Berry, Margaret & KI Kaden, Kathy & George Motto, Mark & Hilary Krivchenia, Jessica Gardner & the 20-30s group, Cathy Marais & Jeff Oremland, Mary Ellen Heelan. It truly takes a village, and with all the help we get, it's not too much work for any one person.

**For coming to Choral Fest**

Thank you to the Countrysiders who came to the Western Crescent Choral Festival in Elgin on April 15. The weather was cold, wet, and icy and yet there you were! It meant a lot to the Countryside Choir that you would come to support us. Because of the efforts and generosity of both participants and audience, $1,360 was raised for the Community Crisis Center. Thank you!

**For the Sustainable Energy Expo**

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the exciting and well-received public event held here on April 21. If you haven’t already seen the media coverage, here is the link to WGN-TV’s story: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cnlf8chZPTo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cnlf8chZPTo)
From Our Director of Lifespan Religious Education (DLRE)

**Turning Points in UUism: An Adult Faith Development Series**

There are issues that are pivotal in the history of Unitarian Universalism and in our lives as Unitarian Universalists. Through the exploration and discussion of important themes and challenges in UUism, this series will provide an opportunity to deepen your understanding about UUism, as well as to help you to articulate your faith. The final session for the 2017-18 academic year will be May 23 on The Elevator Speech. Please sign up online: [https://ccuu.breezechms.com/form/TurningPts](https://ccuu.breezechms.com/form/TurningPts)

**Summer RE: Summer Around the World**

Come join us this summer at Countryside Church as we explore the similarities and differences of our Unitarian Universalist faith and other world religions. Young people will be introduced to Buddhism, Islam, and Hinduism in a respectful way through stories and activities. Our Unitarian Universalist faith lists "wisdom from the world’s religions" as one of the sources of our living tradition. Join us as we learn and grow our faith, and celebrate the diversity of the human expressions of faith around us.

Our summer RE program runs June 10—August 19. There are a few openings for lead & assistant teachers. If you have been approved to teach, please sign up at [http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0b45acaa2aaaf6-summer1](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0b45acaa2aaaf6-summer1). If you have not taught before and have been actively involved at CCUU for a year and are a member or on the path to membership, please contact Jules, DLRE@ccuu.org, or Kathy, re.assistant@ccuu.org, for more information.

**Social Action News**

**Submit Nominations for Share-the-Plate May 1 - May 20**

Would you like your favorite non-profit organization to benefit? From May 1 through May 20, you may submit a nomination for a 501(c)3 organization that you would like to see receive monies from CCUU’s Share-the-Plate program. In this program, half the cash collected in the Offering is given to a charitable, non-profit organization. Share the Plate is offered twice/month, often the 2nd and 4th Sundays. This program is overseen by both the Social Action Committee and the Outreach Steering Committee. Please email nominations or questions to Yvette Johnson, Yjohson3145@comcast.net.

**Monthly Fair Trade Sale: May 6**

Once/month we offer fair trade chocolate, coffee, tea, cocoa, olive oil, and snacks from Equal Exchange for sale during our coffee-fellowship time. For each pound of Equal Exchange foods purchased, 20 cents goes to the UUSC’s Small Farmer Fund.

**Next Social Action Meeting: May 27**

All are welcome to join us 11:30 am—12:30 pm in classroom 1. Please bring something to share for our simple potluck lunch (please no nuts). Send agenda items to SocialActionChair@ccuu.org.

**Soul Connections**

**Soul Connections** is our small group ministry; the groups meet monthly to explore and delve deeper into the monthly themes, using materials provided by the Soul Matters collaborative. If you would like to request a complete theme resource packet or obtain more info about the Soul Connections program, email Don Bussey, SoulConnections@ccuu.org.

**A Soul Connections Testimonial**

by Martha Blus, Group Participant, Soul Connections

Third Thursday Evening Group

I signed up for Soul Connections this year because I wanted to take a gentle step forward into deeper engagement at Countryside, after having taken a few years off to focus on some home and family priorities. I'd been very involved in Chalice Circles from 2010-2014, so I was familiar with what Small Group Ministry at CCUU had to offer. As wonderful as Chalice Circles was, I think Soul Connections is even better, and I'm happy to say that Soul Connections has more than met my aspirations.

Soul Connections is multidimensional. It is an individual and community activity at the same time. The heart of the program is the monthly theme and the sharing that occurs around that theme (e.g. May is "Creativity"). The resources provided each month are rich and diverse — readings, videos, songs, stories, movies, podcasts, books, optional exercises, thought-provoking questions. They bring each theme to life and help me think about it in new and different ways than I ever have before.

Exploring and reflecting throughout the month, then sharing with my group helps clarify my thoughts and feelings about the theme and how it shows up in my life. (To paraphrase Flannery O'Connor, "I share because I don't know what I think until I hear what I say.") I'm also challenged to grow and evolve; January's "Intention" theme has inspired a renewed journaling practice, and October's “Courage” is leading me to pursue an emerging interest in racial and restorative justice work.

Author Phil Cousineau writes of pilgrimage as a “powerful metaphor for any journey with the purpose of finding something that matters deeply to the traveler.” Soul Connections has become an invaluable “guidebook” on my personal pilgrimage and given me fellow travelers for the journey. I encourage you to join us “on the road”!

**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: 4th Thurs, 10 am**

Join us on May 24 to hear CCUU member Peggy Simonson, a staunch conservationist/gardener, speak on Using Native Plants in the Home Landscape; she will talk about the value of natives and will show some examples for sun, shade, and wet areas. Peggy’s talk should be very interesting and innovative as well as practical. Potluck lunch follows the program; bring something to share or your own individual lunch. All are welcome—invite a friend!

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

All are welcome to join us in classroom #1. In addition to sharing new writings by members, we are viewing a workshop sponsored by the Timpanogos Storytelling Institute.
May Ministry Theme: Creativity

May 2, 2018

Full Week Faith

**Full Week Faith** reminds us to carry our Unitarian Universalism into our daily lives. We do this through rituals which help us slow down and engage in spiritual and mindfulness practices - teaching us to connect our minds, bodies, and spirits to our faith. I invite you to take time daily, individually or as a family, to create rituals and practices in living your Unitarian Universalism faith guided by our

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Full Week Faith ~ Adult Faith Development

**Monthly Chalice Lighting**

*Light a chalice to begin your day, before a meal or before your spiritual practice…*

*Like the First Hint of Green*  
by Jennifer McGlothlin  
As the first hint of green begins to peek through the barren ground  
As that little sprig grows into a healthy stem  
As that stem grows into a stalk and forms a bud  
As that bud slowly opens with each new day  
To form a yellow daffodil  
Let us be, like that first hint of green, renewed by the warm of the sun’s rays  
And ready to emerge with a new energy, ready to face the day.  
We light this chalice to bring a glimmer of that warmth into our space.

*Open Your Hearts (adapted)*  
by Rev David Usher  
Open my heart to the wonder.  
Open my mind to the eternal quest for meaning and truth.  
Open my eyes to the miracle of creation.  
Open my arms to the embrace of your fellow men and women.  
Open my soul, and let the divine sweep in.

Creativity Reflection

Creativity encourages us to find ways to express ourselves, and in Full Week Faith, I ask you to connect creativity with your Unitarian Universalist faith through:

- **Journaling Reflections:** Keep a daily journal about how your faith has guided you and brought joy, hope and/or peace to your life today.
- **Drawing or Painting:** Draw, paint or create a collage or how Unitarian Universalism has brought joy, hope and/or peace to your life.
- **Other Expression:** Find other creative ways that you can express how Unitarian Universalism has brought joy, hope, and/or peace to your life.

Be brave and share some of your reflection with someone close to you!

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Full Week Faith ~ Family Ministry

**Monthly Chalice Lighting**

*Light a chalice to begin your day, before a meal or before your spiritual practice…*

*In this World We Create*  
We light this chalice to remember that…  
In this world we create-  
Love, hope, and peace.  
May we remember to carry this light with us-  
Wherever we go and to share it with everyone, we meet.

Creativity Reflection

Creativity encourages us to find ways to express ourselves, and in Full Week Faith, I ask you to connect creativity with your family and our Unitarian Universalist Principles—also known as The Rainbow Path:

- **Respect all beings**
- **Offer fair and kind treatment to all**
- **Yearn to learn**
- **Grow in spirit and mind**
- **Believe in my ideas and act on them**
- **Insist on peace, freedom, and justice**
- **Value the connections in creation**

Each week this month, gather your family together with some paper and art materials and draw the following images. The picture can be something that you have done or that you may want to do. Have fun and be creative!

**Week 1:** Draw a picture of your family doing something together at Countryside Church

**Week 2:** Draw a picture of your family helping to take care of the earth.

**Week 3:** Draw a picture of your family learning together.

**Week 4:** Draw a picture of your family creating peace, freedom, or justice.
### What does it mean to be a People of Creativity?

*Creativity is our ability to dream things up and make them happen.* –Peggy Taylor

We’re all familiar with that part in the quote about dreaming. Conjuring up new ideas and images is what creativity is all about. Using the building blocks of “what is,” we -almost magically- make the “not yet” appear in our minds.

But what about that other part? The part about “making them happen.” When we talk about creativity, that half of the equation often gets short shrift. We celebrate the fun piece about dreaming and leave off the hard piece of making our imaginings real. And it’s not just the hard part; it’s the scary part too. You have to be brave to try new things and fail. Being creative and unique can cause the crowd to cheer and swoon; it can also lead to being laughed at and excluded from the group. Yes, there is joy, beauty and play in creativity, but there is also insecurity, loneliness and self-doubt. Which means that this month is not just about imagination, artistry and self-expression, but also courage.

Once that’s in view, it’s clear that we also need to talk about “co-creativity” this month as well. Something as daring as creativity is dangerous if we try to do it alone. Indeed, where did we get the silly idea that artists and inventors are isolated, independent geniuses? When it comes to myths about creativity, that one tops the list. We need to remind each other that there is no such thing as a “person of creativity,” only “people of creativity.” The Bible talks of the Holy Spirit appearing when “two or more are gathered.” The same rule applies to the creative spirit! For instance, new ideas come from the clash of debate. New art emerges only after inspiration from those who’ve gone before. Better forms of community are built on the back of those who have toiled and sacrificed long before we put ourselves on the line. Simply put, there are no creators without companions.

It’s all a way of reminding us that the secret to creative self-expression is staying connected to each other. Those sacred sources of inspiration inside us – our imagination, unique voice and inner muses – are like wild animals; they are hungry to run free but are also shy and easily scared away. They want to come out and play but will only do so when coaxed and cared for by the inspiration and support of others. So, in the end, maybe the most important question this month is not just “What do you want to create?” but also “Who are your partners?”

With gratitude for all our sources of creativity – those within us and those all around us – let us begin.

### Questions for Considering Creativity

Pick the single question that speaks to you most and let it lead you where you need to go. The goal is to figure out what being a part of a people of intention means for you and your daily living. Is that broken thing you keep trying to put back together keeping you from the beautiful thing that is waiting to be built?

1. Do you know what are you building, constructing, composing, planting or recreating with your life?
2. Are you as creatively maladjusted” as you’d imagined you would be?
3. When was the last time you created (or helped create) something that will outlive you?
4. Who is in the way of your self-expression?
5. Are you being called to help someone else see themselves as a piece of art?
6. Is it time to recreate yourself?
7. What around you needs put back together again?
8. They say creativity comes with a cost. Are you trying to achieve creativity but avoid the cost?
9. There’s creativity in tearing things down. What in your life needs creatively deconstructed so new life has room to grow?
10. How often do you give yourself the gift of inspiration? Tell me again why you think you can go without it for weeks at a time?
11. When was the last time you woke up feeling like the new day was a blank canvass?
12. Do you feel like you create your days or like they create you?
13. Do you make space for the muses?
14. Are you trying to create alone?
15. Who says we organized, responsible, spreadsheet-loving types aren’t creative (in our own way)?!
16. They say we shape our gods and then they shape us. How is the shape of your god shaping you?

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### Movies with Meaning

**Fri, May 25, 7 pm ~ Whiplash**

Please join us in Atherton Hall to watch this film about how passion to achieve perfection quickly spirals into obsession when a ruthless teacher pushes his student to the brink of his ability and his sanity. Click [here](#) to view official trailer.

Sponsored by Soul Connections, this movie is offered as companion to our May ministry theme journey, to continue considering what it means to be a people of creativity. Popcorn & beverages included for your enjoyment at this [*gratis*](#) event. For more info, contact Don Bussey at [MoviesWithMeaning@ccuu.org](mailto:MoviesWithMeaning@ccuu.org).
Monthly Meetings: 2nd Sundays, 12:30 pm
All are welcome to join us for our next monthly meeting on May 13 at 12:30 pm in Classroom 6. We will review the recent Sustainable Energy Expo, get updates on ongoing events and projects, and develop strategies to move forward on new interests.

Help for Countryside’s Prairie
We’re looking for a few helpers to restore and maintain the little strip of prairie on the east side of the church property. You don’t need to know the prairie plants (though you will learn some of them!) but be willing to spend a few hours over the spring and summer weeding and planting. The leaders currently are Peggy Simonsen, Ron Vargason and Mark Krivchenia. We plan to have an introductory meeting on Monday, May 7 at 5:00 PM. You don’t have to commit to working at that time, but come to see what needs to be done on your own time later. We will also have a group work day on Sat, May 19 at 1 PM. If you are willing to help or have questions, please call or email Peggy, imonsen.peggy@gmail.com or 847-358-1019.

Vegetable Garden Plots Available
All you have to do is bring seeds, plants, and love. There are a few garden plots available for the upcoming garden season. Organic garden plots are located on the Northside of the church property. Each plot is approximately 6’ X 12’ and includes access to a shed with tools and water. While you can enjoy the fruits of your labor, you are expected to donate some portion of each harvest to the Palatine Food Pantry. Donations are left in a designated area of the kitchen & delivered on Monday mornings. This is a terrific way to connect with nature and with family or to make new friends. Email Mike Calwas, Gardens@ccuu.org, for more info or to reserve a garden.

Vegetable Delivery Volunteers Needed
The Countryside gardeners are looking for volunteers to deliver produce to the Palatine Township Food Pantry. A volunteer would have to pick up harvest produce from Countryside on Monday mornings around 10am and deliver to the township office. Get further information from Mike Calwas at Gardens@ccuu.org.

Bike to Twin Lakes: May 27, 12:30 pm
Memorial Day weekend is the gateway to summer, so dust off your bike, top off the air in the tires, and join Countryside Cyclepaths on a ride to Twin Lakes Recreation Area. This is a casual ride of 14 or so miles round trip and suitable for all ages. Pack snacks and refreshments for a picnic, or concessions are available at Twin Lakes. For more info, contact Barrie Burr, Don Bussey, or Maryanne O’Dowd at biking@ccuu.org.

CCUU Has a Bike Rack!
More of us are riding our bikes to Sunday Service or to other events at Countryside. It’s great exercise and a way to lower your personal carbon footprint all while doing your share for cleaner air. Green Sanctuary Committee wants to remind you that there’s a bike rack on the Northwest corner of the building. Plot your bike path to Countryside knowing you and your bike are welcome here!

Walk in the Woods & Prairie
3rd Sundays, 2-3:30 pm, May-October
Join Interfaith Green Partners, of which Countryside is a part, to explore the treasures of our local Deer Grove Forest Preserve. Find spring ephemerals in May and June. Enjoy the beauty of the native prairie in July and August. In September go for an early fall walk. Finally, in October experience fall as it returns to the prairie. Walks will be guided by stewards and naturalists who know how to find those treasures. All ages are welcome! See map included below. For more info, contact Gail at GreenSanctuary@ccuu.org.
- May 20: Deer Grove West – West Dundee Parking (off Dundee Road, across from Palatine Stables)
- June 17: Deer Grove West - Grove 5 (enter off Quentin Road, turn right where the road divides and go to the FIRST parking area on the RIGHT – near but not at the end of the road)
Info on July—October walks will be included in future newsletters, or you can download the flyer from the Green Sanctuary page on the church website: http://ccuu.org/green-sanctuary-committee/ (under the Service & Justice tab).
Feminine Divine Women’s Group
Last Saturdays, 9:30 am
This year, we are discussing Warrior Goddess Training by Heatherash Amara. On May 26, we will discuss chapter 9. Newcomers are welcome to join us in classroom 6. For more info, email wendyingrassia@yahoo.com.

20-30 Somethings ~ 1st & 3rd Sundays
If you are in your 20s or 30s, please join us following the 11:00 worship service in classroom 4. Childcare is available during the meetings. We also meet at other times during the month for socializing and service. For more info or to be added to our email list, email 2030s@ccuu.org.

Atheist, Humanist, Agnostic (AHA) Discussion ~ 2nd Tuesdays, 7 pm
All are welcome to join us in classroom 4. On May 8, we will watch and discuss part 2 of Letting Go of God, a video by former Saturday Night Live actress Julia Sweeney.

Book Discussions
Last Mondays Book Group: May 21
NOTE: we’re meeting the 3rd Monday, not the last, to avoid Memorial Day. Join us at 7 pm in the Stokes Room to discuss Sing Unburied Sing, the 2017 National Book Award winner by Jesmyn Ward. In June, we will return to the last Monday (June 25) and discuss The Hate You Give by Angie Thomas.

Book Circle: June 3
All are welcome to join us in classroom 6 to discuss Hope in the Dark: Untold Histories, Wild Possibilities by Arlie Rebecca Solnit. We meet at 6:15 pm, discussion begins at 6:30 pm.

Mary Oliver Poetry Series
4th Fridays, 7 pm
Each evening a featured poet will read his/her own poetry followed by an opportunity for others to read during an open mike session. Our featured poet on May 25 will be Patrice Claeyns, for whom poetry is music, playful associations, and fierce expression. The readings are open to the public, and all who love poetry are welcome to join us in classroom 6.

Buddhist Study Group ~ June 3 & 10
We are not meeting in May. We will meet June 3 and 10 at 11:30 am to plan our summer worship service.

Yoga
Contact Laura.Mandell@comcast.net with questions.

Warm-Up Yoga: May 3 & 17, 6:20-7:05 pm
This is our last month of gentle yoga class for this year. Join us in the Spirit Play room (rm 9/10) from 6:20 - 7:00 pm. The emphasis is on stretches and strengthening poses that reduce tension and calm the mind.

Summer Yoga Fundamentals
Join Laura from 6 to 7 pm on June 7, July 5, and August 2. This series is perfect for beginners and Level 1 students or as a refresher for all levels.

Open Forum Discussion
Sundays, 10-10:50 am
Please join us! We meet in classroom 5 to discuss “the issues of the day” while respectfully welcoming different perspectives. Future topics are tentative. The upcoming two Sundays are least likely to change, but current events developments or other factors sometimes inspire us to switch. Email vidaxel@axeldesigns.com to be added to our email list to receive notices and suggested readings.
- May 6: Wonder Woman: A Feminist, Cultural Force?

Beginning May 20, we will start at 9 am to coordinate with the summer worship schedule.
- May 20: Music—what and why, revisited (brought back by popular demand)
- May 27: Ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment—is now the time?
- June 3: Trillionaire Intervention in US Health Care
- June 10: Repercussions of the Trump Cabinet’s Actions, Part 1: War

Drum Circle ~ 4th Saturdays
Adults & teens are invited to join us on May 26 at 7 pm 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. For more info, go to www.PalatineDrumCircle.com.

Spring Cleaning?
The church needs stainless steel forks and spoons. If you are planning to get rid of some, please think of us. Just put them in the church kitchen near the phone. If we can't use it, we'll donate it.

Used Bookshelf
This small fundraiser for the church operating budget is in Atherton Hall. If you have books which you no longer want, you may place them on the shelf. If you see a book on the shelf you'd like, we ask that you leave $1 per book in the box on the shelf. Periodically, it is refreshed by donating all the books to Palatine Library book sale.
Wellness House Offerings at CCUU

**Hypnosis Group & Reiki Sessions**

Held here at CCUU the 1st Saturday of the month, these offerings are open to anyone in our geographical area who has or had cancer of any kind. The hypnosis program is led by our community minister, the Rev. Dr. Giles, and the reiki sessions are offered by his wife, the Rev. Lindsay Bates. These are free, and registration is required. To register, email kmitchell@wellnesshouse.org or call 630-654-5197.

**UU Women’s Connection Spring Retreat**

**June 1-3 at Pilgrim Park in Princeton IL**

**Awakening Shamanic Consciousness: A New Birth**

Our keynote speaker will be Carley Mattimore, Shamanic Psychotherapist who midwives others on their spiritual and psychological path towards healing and wholeness in their lives. For more info and to register, go to [https://www.uuwomensconnection.org/retreats](https://www.uuwomensconnection.org/retreats)

**Evanston-Countryside UU Camping Trip**

**August 17-19, Turkey Run State Park**

All campers—singles, couples, families—are invited to join our easy and fun annual Unitarian Church of Evanston/Countryside UU camping trip by reserving a site with the Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources, August 17 for two nights, at Turkey Run State Park, near Marshall, IN. Choose a site near site 184. Please contact Dale Griffin at UCE, dalear Griffin@comcast.net, with questions and to let us know which site you have reserved. [Click here](https://www.uuwomensconnection.org/retreats) or search Turkey Run State Park Campground rates and reservations.

Turkey Run has wooded sites, a river to ride, beautiful ravines and trails, a nice public waterpark, and lots of other camping amenities. CCUU members Kathy and George Motto have already reserved their site & would love for other Countrysiders to join them!

**Methods of Giving to CCUU**

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

**Countryside Express:** To make regular payments via credit card or automatic withdrawal from your bank account, a form is available on the church website or in the church office. Submit the completed form to the congregational administrator for processing.

**Giving online** 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. Visit the church website; click Donate Now button; click Create Profile; then follow the onscreen instructions.

**Give by Text:** Pick up a yellow card from greeter table or back of sanctuary, or contact the church office.

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**Welcoming** is very important work. Hospitality, and especially ‘Radical Hospitality,’ refers to the conscious and intentional generosity of spirit that exists in people’s behaviors and attitudes, conveying that all are truly welcome. The presence of our Hospitality Teams, which are made up of church members & friends who take responsibility for one Sunday each month, ensures that all are welcomed warmly on Sunday mornings. Think about when you first came to Countryside Church. Who welcomed you (or didn’t)? Can you make others who arrive on Sunday morning feel as welcome as you felt – or more so? Being a part of a Hospitality Team is a way to get to know other church members while making newcomers feel welcome. The more members we have participating on a team, the less frequently any one person has to show up.

If you are already part of a Hospitality Team, please remember to sign up online to help - [http://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a044ea4a72fa13-sunday](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a044ea4a72fa13-sunday)

If you are not yet part of a Team, please contact the church office and we will connect you with one, or feel free to sign up to help at the link above.

Thank you, all!

**Reminder:** Nut-free Practices

*This information is also posted on the kitchen door and on the bulletin board near the microwave.*

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-tree-nut-practices/](http://ccuu.org/peanut-tree-nut-practices/).
### Upcoming Church Meetings & Events: May-June

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<tr>
<td>May 6</td>
<td>9am Worship, Nursery, Chalice Children</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7pm Rem’s class: The Constitution</td>
<td>May 2 Focus publication</td>
<td>May 4</td>
<td>May 5 10am Wellness House Hypnosis Group &amp; Reiki Sessions</td>
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<td>10 am</td>
<td>Open Forum</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7pm Atheist-Humanist-Agnostic Discussion</td>
<td>May 3 6:20pm Warm-up Yoga</td>
<td>7:15pm Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>7:30pm 40-50s Dinner Outing</td>
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<td>11am</td>
<td>Worship &amp; Relig.Educ.</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10am Great Books Group</td>
<td>May 5 10am</td>
<td>7:15pm Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>12 9am-2pm Chicago Area UU Spring Workshop at CCUU</td>
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<td>10am &amp; Noon</td>
<td>Intro to CCUU &amp; Fellowship</td>
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<td>7pm Finance Ctte Mtg</td>
<td>11 10am Memorial Makers</td>
<td>6pm Family Ministry night</td>
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<td>12:20pm</td>
<td>20-30s Group</td>
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<td>6pm Soul Connections Wednesday group</td>
<td>12 10am</td>
<td>7pm Soul Connections Friday group</td>
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<td>Ramadan starts</td>
<td>13 10am</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>10am Soul Connections Tues day-time group</td>
<td>14 6:20pm</td>
<td>7pm Warm-up Yoga</td>
<td>7pm Soul Connections Thurs groups</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>7pm Board of Trustees Mtg</td>
<td>15 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal</td>
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<td>10am ONE Worship service &amp; Religious Education classes</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Focus deadline</td>
<td>20 7pm</td>
<td>7pm Soul Connections group</td>
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<td>11am Congregational Annual Meeting</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>10am Great Books Group</td>
<td>21 7pm</td>
<td>7pm Soul Connections group</td>
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<td>10am ONE All-Church Worship Service &amp; Childcare</td>
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<td>7pm Turning Points in UUism</td>
<td>22 10am</td>
<td>7pm Soul Connections group</td>
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<td>11am Fellowship</td>
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<td>10am Transitions</td>
<td>23 10am</td>
<td>7pm Soul Connections group</td>
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<td>11:30am Social Action Meeting</td>
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<td>10am Mary Oliver Poetry Series</td>
<td>24 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal</td>
<td>7pm Movies with Meaning</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>9:30am Feminine Divine Women’s Grp</td>
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This calendar shows upcoming Church meetings & events. All meetings and events held in the building are listed on the church website, under Programs & Events - [http://ccuu.org/calendar/](http://ccuu.org/calendar/). 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.
**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 Mission**
We are a spiritual community actively answering the call for love, compassion, reason, and justice.

**Our Vision**
Countryside is committed to being a voice of and active presence for liberal religion in the northwest suburbs. Empowered by our Mission Statement, we endeavor to:

- Create a welcoming place of connectedness, compassion, and respect for people of all ages.
- Advance inclusivity and diversity within our congregation and community.
- Care for each other in times of joy, sorrow, and transition.
- Provide for spiritual and intellectual growth and inspire lifelong learning.
- Promote a sustainable future for our community and world by acting with a social, environmental, and global conscience.
- Communicate and spread the message of Unitarian Universalism within and beyond our community.
- Promote peace and justice in our congregation, communities, and the world.
- Engage in thoughtful stewardship of our resources to achieve our mission and carry out our vision.

**Upcoming Focus Deadlines**
Submit all articles by 10 am to ccuu@ccuu.org

- May 21 (publ. May 31)  
- June 25 (publ. July 5)  
- July 23 (publ. Aug 1)

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