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Farmers Market

Nov 11, 10 am—2 pm
Open to the public. Bring friends & neighbors! Bring shopping bags!

Chicago Area UU Fall Conference—Register Now

UUs across the greater Chicago area will come together to work on actionable plans that best bring our religious values into the public square to save democracy. Dr. Mike Hogue, Professor of Theology, Ethics, and Philosophy of Religion at Meadville Lombard, will speak from his new book, "American Immanence: Democracy for an Uncertain World," which calls for building democratic communities of responsibility, resistance, resilience.

- When: Sat, Nov 10; 9am registration, 9:30 am - 2 pm conference
- Where: Countryside Church UUCost: $5 donation recommended to cover event costs
- Lunch: Potluck (Names A-P bring side dish, Q-Z bring dessert)
- Online Registration: UUCheicagoArea.org/workshop
- Questions? Email chicagoareauu@gmail.com

Make Your Time & Talent Reservation by Nov 11

Be sure to make your reservation by Nov 11—see p.11 for more details. This year’s auction includes past favorites plus lots of creative new items that are sure to be popular…

- Parties guaranteed to bring a smile to your face with mad libs, improv, music, rhymes and spice
- Opportunities to learn about Ralph Waldo Emerson, electric cars, and the seven wives of Henry the Eighth
- Workshops including Haiku, flower arranging, kumihimo, meditation and dance
- Excursions including camping, canoeing and crane-watching
- Ever-popular homemade specialities from soup and scones to art and jewelry
- And a turtle!

Journaling Circle: Writing Together for Self-Discovery

1st Thursdays (Nov 1 & Dec 6), 10am

Facilitated by Susan Auld, the Journaling Circle meets the 1st Thursday of the month at 10 am in classroom 1. Each gathering will open with a short meditation. We will then free write and write from prompts related to our monthly themes. Through sharing our writings, we also share life’s journey and deepen relationships within our community. Bring a notebook/journal and a pen and your desire for personal exploration and growth. If interested, please sign up here.

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 the worship service.
From Your Board of Trustees

As we move into the season of thanks and giving, it is an apt time to express my gratitude for this community and its generosity.

Now that we are several weeks into our mortgage paydown effort, it is abundantly clear that CCUU is filled with generous people who care deeply about the sustainability and long-term financial health of Countryside. Regardless of the amount donated, your support for the effort is greatly appreciated. May this ongoing spirit of generosity – both with the mortgage paydown effort and our annual stewardship drive – enable us to pave the way to a productive and positive future.

I’d like to also extend a robust and heartfelt thanks to our staff, who continually goes above and beyond. I suspect that many of us feel that “thanks” just doesn’t seem to cut it. A fully funded staff is essential to fulfilling our mission and vision, and we appreciate all that they do to carry forth the ministries and programs of CCUU. As such, it is important that we have adequate staff to meet our needs and that our staff is focusing on tasks related to nurturing and sustaining the spiritual health and well-being of CCUU and its congregants.

As mentioned in previous communications, the North Property (the land and house directly north of our parking lot) continues to require our time and attention. The North Property Team, along with the Board of Trustees, is endeavoring to answer many of the open questions regarding the North Property, but in the meantime, we, Countryside Church Unitarian Universalist, remain landlords of the property. With that role comes various responsibilities, and it is the obligation of the entire congregation to uphold those responsibilities. Further, it is imperative that we maintain the property in a way that is in keeping with our mission and vision and to do so requires time and resources.

It is important that the congregation understand that ownership of the property requires that we be good stewards of the property as one of our resources. Being a landlord and maintaining the property requires certain maintenance costs. Rent received from the property is once source of income to CCUU’s operating budget. Costs for repairs and maintenance expenses come from the operating budget, thereby reducing the amount of income. Expenses associated with the property are expected to increase in the near future as various repairs and improvements are necessary.

Upkeep and maintenance of the property is not a responsibility of our staff, but rather of the entire congregation. We are currently seeking individuals who are willing to be part of a team of people to serve as a tenant contact in case of repair or maintenance issues – not necessarily to do the repairs or maintenance. If you are willing to serve in this role, please email prez@ccuu.org.

Again, thank you to everyone at CCUU for making this community the exceptional place that it is. It is an honor and a privilege to serve as board president.

With gratitude,
Christine Organ
Board President

Director of Lifespan Religious Education (DLRE) Search Update

The DLRE Search Committee has been meeting on a consistent basis both in-person and online since late summer regarding the DLRE Search. After some initial research and editing, the committee composed a draft job description by the beginning of September - a finalized draft was held off until the after October board meeting so specific benefits could be determined and included. The committee now has an internal deadline in November to finish a marketing packet that would be available to prospective candidates. Both the job description and the marketing packet are scheduled to be formally posted (to accept applications) by mid-November.

It was also important to the Committee to make sure the opinions of the congregation can be incorporated in any decision making, so announcements were made both prior to service and within service printed materials regarding open forums to gather opinions. These open forums took place on September 16 and 30. The feedback from these forums, along with emailed opinions that were also requested, will be used to aid the committee in determining the final candidates. If you want to provide feedback and haven’t yet, download the Feedback Form and email your responses to DLREsearch@ccuu.org.

In sum, the Committee is on-schedule and will update the congregation with further information as needed!

Paving The Way To Our Future

Make a gift to help pay down our mortgage and tell us what CCUU means to you. Write your donation amount on the form available in Atherton Hall, and return it to the church office before Nov 25. Please make donation payments by Dec 31. Direct questions to your Board of Trustee. Then select a river stone from the table in Atherton Hall, and write a word or short phrase or draw a simple image that conveys your message on a river stone. Place your stone in the glass vase and in the future we’ll make a paver for the garden using all the stones. Thanks. You rock!

Board of Trustees Meeting

Schedule Change for November

This month’s meeting will be held on Nov 28 (instead of our usual 3rd Weds) to avoid meeting the night before Thanksgiving. Board meetings are open to the congregation, for people who want to observe. Agendas and Minutes, once approved, are posted on the church website (http://ccuu.org/board-of-trustees-meetings/). To be on the agenda, contact the Board President at least one week prior to the Board meeting.
Minister’s Muse
I’ve always loved our 1st principle—the inherent worth and dignity of all persons. It’s not an easy one – how to see that worth and dignity in some folks. Yes, some people — through the twisted or tragic circumstances of fate – lose track of their dignity, integrity, and even their heart. What I like about this principle, is that it demands of us — no matter how degraded another person might be — no matter how criminal — no matter how devoid of moral compass — or how different — this principle reminds us that they must still be seen in terms of the dignity, integrity, heart, worth, and promise with which they were born. That doesn’t mean that if they are truly dangerous, devoid of moral compass, that they should be allowed to roam free. But it puts on us the burden of knowing people below the surface, by their actions as they affect other people and as they contribute to the welfare of the whole.

People sometimes get scared of one another without good cause. There were nearly 2 millennia during which the Jewish people were seen as dangerous. There have been tragic centuries during which gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons were seen as dangerous and degraded. For goodness sake, in the eyes of the medieval church, women were seen as dangerous and degraded.

Not every faith tradition asks us to look deep, to think beyond ancient “norms”, “prejudices”, and even our own reflexive responses. Our first principle reminds us that even when we encounter something surprisingly different — we need, first, to set aside our initial — or whatever — and get to know who they are beneath the surface, to learn about them beyond whatever prejudices we have been taught and that, even while we are doing that, we still have a core responsibility to treat them with respect for the inherent worth and dignity (those human gifts with which they were born) as we learn and explore.

There are times when, after learning and exploration we discover that the other person truly is a lost soul — someone who will exploit others, who will betray, devour, and crush others and will destroy anything in order to profit themselves. The rest of our principles give us a measuring stick, to be perfectly honest, by which we can look at the values and actions of others and understand how to proceed.

Our first principle reminds us, too, that each one of us has a responsibility to live up to those human gifts with which we were born. The poet, Marge Piercy, has that wonderful poem in which she speaks of wanting to be with people who want to be of use, who want to be of use in a common cause, who want to be of use even if it means getting their hands dirty – and perhaps, especially, if it means getting their hands dirty.

But today, anticipating an election coming up, there are two other principles that most weigh heavily upon me. Our 2nd principle calls us to affirm and promote “justice, equity, and compassion in human relations.” This is one of the best measuring sticks I have seen. As the election looms, I expect all of us to go to the polls and vote in the light of justice, equity, and compassion in human relations. Simple enough. When we don’t vote in the light of those standards, by some measure we lose, ourselves, some of our own wholeness, some of our own integrity, dignity.

Just as, when our legislators do not act in the light of those standards, we know that they are lost as well. They may deserve our respect as other persons, but they do not deserve our votes. When we see that there are legislators actively working against justice, equity, and compassion in human relations, we have a profound responsibility to go out and vote for those who will. And when we don’t vote – out of despair, disillusionment, or disdain – at those times, too, we lose, ourselves, some of our own wholeness, some of our own dignity, and integrity.

Of course, right now the principle that weighs upon me is our 5th principle: “the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.” The use of the democratic process is a direct reflection of our belief in and our hopes for the worth and integrity of every person and of that radical moment in history when our religion – and others – decided that humanity had sufficient worth and dignity to deserve a voice in our own fate.

So, as I reflect on the coming election, I do so in a spirit of fervent prayer – not to a deity beyond my reach, but to every one of us.

May every single one of us, registered to vote, go to the polls and exercise that right.
May we encourage others who hold back to get out and fill out their ballot.
May every single one of us who goes to the polls exercise that right in the spirit of our principles and, in particular, in a spirit of compassion and justice.
May we all – Democrat or Republican or Independent – go to the polls
And vote in a spirit that will uphold our democracy will remember history and desire to give to the future a legacy of the progress of the human heart, which has the capacity to be ever learning and growing.

May we vote
May all who vote, vote not with greed or self-absorption, but in compassion.
May all who vote, vote not in fear, but in love,
May all who vote, vote for the inherent worth and dignity of every person
And, in this way promote, affirm, uplift, and exercise our own.

Thanksgiving Eve Interfaith Service
Weds, Nov 21, 7:30 pm
At Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 930 W Higgins Rd, Schaumburg

Rev. Krivchenia will participate, and all Countrysiders are invited to attend. This year’s theme is “Peace Be With You.” In these times, when violence and hatred appear in many places, we join with neighbors and people of faith to give thanks for the blessings of peace, reconciliation, and understanding.

As in past years, we will also have a bread-sharing ritual, symbolizing the gifts of God and our sharing of those gifts. Another beloved tradition will also be observed: pie and coffee following the service. Please stay and be our guests!

(continued...)
Social Action News

Monthly Meetings ~ 4th Sundays

Our meetings convene at 11:30 am in Classroom #2. Grab a cup of coffee in Atherton Hall and join us. Send agenda items to Dan Yokas & Mike Graves, SocialActionChair@cciu.org.

Monthly Fair Trade Sale: Nov 11 & Dec 9

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

Fair Trade Bazaar: Dec 9, 9:30 am—2 pm

Our annual Fair Trade Bazaar this year has some new vendors with some lovely items. There is a lot more to fair trade than just coffee and chocolate. You will find jewelry, clothing, home goods, toys and much more. The Fair Trade Bazaar is open to the public, so bring your friends & neighbors! Your purchases will improve lives through a sustainable economic system.

Who are you helping by buying Fair Trade? You are supporting artisans from impoverished communities in disadvantaged countries. These co-ops produce high quality products in a protected environment. They are paid fair wages and observe gender equality while producing goods in an environmentally safe way. This help and hope allows them to provide food, shelter, education and health care for their families. We, as conscientious consumers, can promote this economic growth and economic justice by buying these Fair Trade items.

Put December 9 on your calendar and visit anytime between 9:30 am to 2 pm.

Holiday Giving Opportunities

For Palatine & Fremd high school students in need

Countryside UU partners with several other churches in Palatine to collect gift cards for our local high school students who are homeless or near-homeless, pregnant or parenting. There are over 100 such students in Palatine High School alone, the majority of whom endure the misery of precarious housing.

The next time we shop for groceries, let’s pick up at least one gift card – a $10–$25 gift card to a fast-food restaurant or a $25 gift card to Target or Walmart. (Nothing above $25.)

Volunteers from PATH (Palatine Assisting Through Hope) will put the “gift baskets” together; then the school social workers will distribute students to holiday.

• Dates: November 4 – December 2
• Where: Drop in marked container in church office
• What: Gift Cards only. No other items
• Questions: Contact Yvette Johnson

For Palatine Township Families

We will again participate in Palatine Township’s Holiday Gift-Giving Program. The Township will send us wish lists for 28 people, both adults and children. On Nov 11 & 18, you will have the opportunity to choose a person for whom to buy gifts; all details will be available then. This is a popular program and one where your generosity makes a huge difference in someone’s life over the holidays. Thanks go to Kay Gredell and Ellen Vinzani who will oversee this year’s program.

From Our Interim Director of Lifespan Religious Education (DLRE)

Memory

...is our theme for this month. While this might not be as inspiring as our past themes of vision and sanctuary, there is still much to ponder.

What, exactly, is a memory? It certainly isn’t tangible, yet it is connected to our physical being, primarily our brains. We experience memories with certain smells, sounds, colors, and objects. Every time I hear the Kansas song, Dust in the Wind, I remember being in high school and the boyfriend who broke up with me on my 16th birthday. Every time! Science tells us that we can rewire our brains to stop associating things by connecting them to new experiences. Does that mean that the original memory becomes invalid? Does it leave our conscious permanently?

One person’s memory of something often differs with another’s, even if both were present at the same time and experienced the same thing. Is memory, therefore, like faith? Just because you can’t see it or experience it the same doesn’t mean it’s not real to the other person. Their experience and memory of it is just as valid as yours.

And as we age, we face memory challenges, some as detrimental as Alzheimer’s. Science and medicine are still trying to figure out the complexities of this disease. Perhaps, someday, we will be able to save our memories and retrieve them at will like a jar of cookies off the shelf, to be given to those we love and cherish. After all, isn’t that one of our greatest fears as we reconcile our mortality, that we will be forgotten?

In faith, Kathy

Kathy’s Hours

I will be out of the office November 1-5 for a Liberal Religious Educators’ Association conference in Houston. I will have limited access to email. Linda Berry will be filling in for me on November 4, so please contact her if you need anything onsite.

Helpers Needed...

...to rock babies, play with preschoolers, and learn with young people! With more helpers, each person would only need to commit to one Sunday every 4-5 weeks. Email Kathy at dlre@cciu.org for details.

Transitions

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

Monthly Program & Lunch: Nov 15, 10 am

NOTE: This month, we are meeting the 3rd Thursday to avoid meeting on Thanksgiving. Join us to hear Ron Vargason & Barb Sugden present a program on Southern India—Seashore, Spice, Spirituality. Glimpse a rich and vibrant culture, so different from our own. See sophisticated, steamy, teeming, hardworking Mumbai and Chennai. Experience age-old arts, practiced today with sensitive precision. Appreciate detailed, artful relics of colorful ancient temples, and experience today’s exuberant festi-
Upcoming Worship Services

Worship Services & Religious Education classes are on Sundays at 10:00 am.
Unless otherwise noted below, young people attend the beginning of worship with their families.
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/

~ Note: Daylight Saving Time ends on Nov 4 at 2 am ~ clocks ‘fall back’ 1 hour ~

Nov 4  Spiritual Journeys
A few times each year, members of the congregation share stories of their faith journey during a Spiritual Journeys worship service. This Sunday, we will hear from Mike Berry and Leslie Vaughn. And Children’s Choir is singing today! Share-the-Plate: Half of the non-pledge income collected in the offering will be donated to UU Advocacy Network of IL (UUANI), which empowers UUs in IL to advocate effectively for our values by strengthening UU congregations as connected communities and powerful agents of social change; connecting congregations with each other and with partners aligned with our values; mobilizing for collective action around issues of common concern.

Nov 11  Pulpit Guest: Charles Earp
Come to the indoor Farmers Market after the service.

Nov 14, 6:30 pm  Service of Transgender Remembrance  Rev. Krivchenia
This will be a short service of Remembrance for all transgender persons who have died as a result of narrow-mindedness and hatred in the past year. We gather to remember in understanding and love.

Nov 18  All-Church Service of Thanksgiving  Rev. Hilary Landau Krivchenia
This is an All-Church Service; young people attend the entire service with their families.
Share-the-Plate: Half of the non-pledge income collected in the offering will be donated to 2 Li’l Fishes, serving a nutritious, free, tasty lunch in a safe environment to over 500 guests six days/week at the dual UU-UCC People’s Church in Chicago.

Nov 25  Pulpit Guest to be announced

Dec 2  All-Church Ferias Ignis (fire holiday) Service  Rev. Krivchenia
This is an All-Church Service; young people attend the entire service with their families. This service is also known as our Chalice Service, honoring a week-long holiday which celebrates our UU Principles. You are invited to bring your chalice from home to place on a special table at the front of the sanctuary. Share-the-Plate: Half of the non-pledge income collected in the offering will be donated to the New Poor People’s Campaign.

Do you enjoy singing?
Then perhaps you would enjoy singing with our choir. For more info, contact Alison Vernon, Music.Director@ccuu.org or 847-359-8440 ext. 5.

Adult Choir ~ Thursdays, 7:15 pm
Just come on in. We’ll be saving a seat for you! Childcare is provided during rehearsals.

Children’s Choir ~ Sundays, 11:15 am
Young people in 1st thru 4th grades are invited to meet in the Music Rehearsal Room after Sunday School for a short, fun rehearsal.

Child Dedications: Nov 18
Child dedications are a rite of passage offered as a celebration of all children in our congregation. On Sunday, Nov 18, we will offer child dedications during the worship service for any child (infant – age 12) who has either recently joined our congregation or who has not yet had the opportunity to be dedicated. The children will be given the blessing and support of the congregation and receive a special gift.
If you are interested in being part of this dedication, please contact Kathy Underwood, DLRE@ccuu.org, by Nov 11. We look forward to celebrating this special day with you!

Drum Circle ~ Nov 24
Adults & teens are invited to join us in Atheron Hall for free-style drumming in a low key, welcoming environment. No experience necessary! Please bring your instrument(s); some limited hand percussion is available to share. For up-to-date info, www.palatinedrumcircle.com

Calling All Creative People
If you have original artwork such as paintings, pottery, photography, sculpture, writing, etc. that convey our Soul Matters monthly themes and would be willing to display your work at our church, please submit your pieces to Lois Phillips or Alison Vernon before the first of each month. Upcoming themes: Nov-Memory, Dec-Mystery, Jan-Possibility, Feb-Trust.

Thanksgiving Day Walk in the Woods
Each year on Thanksgiving Day, Countrysiders gather for a walk in the woods. It’s a great way to celebrate the blessings of another year, commune with nature, and connect with old and new friends. This is a church tradition going back many years and which many would not miss (including the cooks). You’ll be done in plenty of time to enjoy the rest of your holiday festivities.
The Troomp will begin at 10 am at Deer Grove Forest Preserve, parking lot #5. Enter Deer Grove off Quentin Rd, 1/2 mile north of Dundee Rd; turn right at the first stop sign, continue past the 2nd stop sign, and find us on the right before the road ends in a big loop. All are invited – large and small, young and old, and especially our 4-legged friends! Contact Tom Dempsey or Chris Smith with questions.
This Month’s Ministry Theme: Memory

Full Week Faith...
...reminds us to carry our UU faith into our daily lives. Try to take time each day, individually or as a family, to slow down and engage in spiritual and mindful practices to connect your mind, body, and spirit to our faith.

Chalice Lighting
Light a chalice to begin your day, before a meal, or before your spiritual practice...

For the Memory that Heals and Holds
by the Soul Matters Team
We light this chalice in honor of the memories that hold and heal us.
For stories we tell of those whose heroism inspires our own.
For the pictures of loved ones who have passed in whose images we see our better selves.
For the work of remembering that we stand on the shoulders of others who paved the path on which we walk and blessed us with advantages we didn’t earn all on our own.
May these memories of those who came before inspire us to pass on a better world to those who will come after us.
May their light guide our way.

Spiritual Reflections and Connections
Each month, we connect our monthly theme to one of our Principles or Sources. This month, we explore our fifth principle: The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large. With elections coming up, this is the perfect time to explore this principle!

(continued…)

Full Week Faith (cont’d)
Each week try doing one of the following either alone, or with a friend, partner, or as a family:
• Reflect on this question: Does the democratic process work in your opinion? If not, how would you change it?
• Share with your family or friends why voting is important to you or not important to you. Can you see both sides of this question?
• Reflect on a memory of when the democratic process failed you – whether at school, work, or in society. Did it work fairly for everyone involved? Why or why not?
• Reflect on a memory of when the democratic process worked for you. Did it work fairly for everyone involved? Why or why not?
• Consider this prayer by Tess Baumberger:
Prayer on the Eve of an Election (for Election Day)
Spirit of Wisdom,
As we prepare to elect new citizens to lead us, in our communities, town and cities, in our counties, states, and our heart-torn nation, grant us wisdom and discernment so that we may choose those of peaceful heart, of competent mind and of servant spirit.
Spirit of the Harvest,
Help us to winnow the grain from the chaff and to reap the legacy of freedom our founders planted for all of us.
Help us to gather together as one people united in concern for this country founded upon such promising ideals.
Spirit of Healing,
Grant that we may bridge the breaches that have opened between us.
Help us to understand one another, to listen to the stories of who we are, and to find common ground on which we can move forward together. Amen.

What does it mean to be a People of Memory?
We start this month with the words of a Soul Matters participant who wants to remain anonymous:
"I was out for a walk this afternoon and got to thinking a little more about memory and about the various ways in which we are called back to some previous event or feeling, especially through scent (a certain combination of rotting orange peels and other vegetation takes me right back to the market in Dar es Salaam, and sun on pine needles takes me back to our summer hideouts in the woods) or music, which is so much easier to remember than prose. I think especially of the song, ‘In the Still of the Night,’ which I can sing verbatim because when I was in junior high we used to take class field trips from White Plains to NYC and sing it all the way there.
"It’s all got me thinking about what is it that takes you back and where it takes you – and, most importantly, how this remembering feels holy? ‘In the Still of the Night’ wasn’t holy, exactly, but it represented community, a whole
(continued…)

In the mysterious space of memory we are both held together and re-assembled.
As we remember, we are re-membered.
People of Memory (cont’d)

busload of kids singing together, getting beyond the teenage cliques and the need to be popular or cool. There are other memories that take me directly to the holy – dark vaulted rafters from a church in Philadelphia where I went for a youth conference. Sitting in the Sunday morning service, I had my first real experience of the presence of God in those rafters – as a total agnostic, if not atheist at that point in my life. Or standing on a mountain trail in the sunlight, totally alone feeling the immensity and the holiness of the moment, the glory of the mountains and the vastness of the sky. All of them are memories that have enormous power in my life still.

Our friend asks, “What is it that takes you back, and where does it take you?” These may be our most important questions this month. “What takes you back?” invites us to see memory as having its own volition. Not a skill we manipulate, but a sacred energy that “wants” something from us, or “hopes” something for us. And “Where does it take you?” Well, that’s a big question too. The space of memory is elusive. Mysterious. Seemingly beyond our grasp. Who can really say “where” it is? But here’s what we do know: it is in the space of memory that we are somehow held together, and also re-assembled. As we remember, we are re-membered. In that space, memories become these self-animated threads that weave the pieces and parts of us into this more complete thing we call “me” and “you.”

It’s so humbling, and remarkable!

Which makes it all the more sad that throughout much of our history, we Unitarian Universalists have not been overly nice to memory. We’ve given it the label, “tradition,” and treated it mostly as something that holds us back. Tradition, we say, cuts us off from a direct experience with the holy and tries to shape us rather than allowing us the freedom to shape ourselves. This attitude has left us, as a faith, wary of the past, depicting it simply as a place where one gets stuck.

But this is changing, and our Soul Matters friend captures this change perfectly. For her the past is not a place that traps us; it’s more like soil that clings tightly to our roots in order to nourish and stabilize us. If memory had a voice, it wouldn’t sing “remember me.” It would call out, “don’t forget who you are.”

And so, friends, this month, may that be our charge: To allow memory to flow through us in order that it may patch us back together and keep us whole.

Happy re-membering, re-assembling and re-collecting!

Memory Questions to Consider

Don’t treat these questions like “homework” or a list that needs to be covered in its entirety. Instead, simply pick the one 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 vision means for you and your daily living. So, which question is calling to you? Which one contains “your work”? Where is it trying to lead you?

1. What memory has been with you the longest? What does it want from you so badly that it has held on this long?
2. How has your memory changed as you’ve grown older? Do you think of childhood memories more or less? Is it stories or images you now remember more? Has your confidence about the accuracy of your memory grown or lessened? Or is that no longer a question you worry so much about, as long as the “truth” of those memories remain?
3. Has memory ever made you smarter? We think of memory as a warehouse or scrapbook, but for many of us it serves as a teacher and tutor. How has that been true for you?
4. Has memory ever set you free? For some of us, all it takes is seeing that swing from our childhood in our mind’s eye. Or our favorite dog running with abandon. Or that image of staring at the purple sunrise on the river while fishing with our grandfather. When life starts feeling small, depleted or threatening, what memory do you turn to to remember that open doors are all over the place?
5. What memories have been entrusted to you? Families pass down stories. Old friends look to one another to remember each other’s childhoods. Spouses safely house their vulnerable stories and secrets with each other. We are all protectors and sustainers of memories that keep pieces and parts of others alive. What precious memory have you been asked to keep alive?
6. What memory will die with you if you don’t pass it on? Is this the month you finally make a concrete plan to make sure it lives on the memory of another?
7. What memory holds your truest self? For some, it comes from childhood, like that time we were handed a paintbrush and canvas and felt a strange sense of home. For others it is from our adult adventures, maybe that time we bravely walked away. We don’t just have personality traits, we hold tight to our defining traits through memory. What memories help you hold on to yourself?
8. What is your favorite shared memory? Memory is the glue that binds our friendships, marriages and partnerships. Is it time to take your friend or partner out for lunch to reminisce and toast the way that memory’s magic has held you together?
9. Is it time to admit that your memory may not be the complete picture of what happened?
10. What if the question isn’t, “Did it really happen that way?” But instead, “Why do you want to remember that it happened that way?”
11. Are you ok with the person you used to be? Have you been working a bit too hard to wipe the “previous you” from your memory? They say none of you gets to walk through the door unless you’re willing to bring all of you in.
12. What do you do to remind yourself that you did not make yourself? What practice do you use to remember that you stand on the shoulders of countless others?
13. Have you figured out the story you want to be remembered by?
14. Does fall come with its own set of memories? Do you remember differently this time of year?
15. What has life taught you about memory and pain? It is said that time does not heal all wounds but gives us the tools to endure them. Has this been true for you? Is there someone in your life that needs this message?

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20-30 Somethings ~ 1st & 3rd Sundays
If you are in your 20s or 30s, please join us following the worship service in classroom 4. Childcare is available during the meetings. We also meet at other times during the month for socializing and service.
We need you to take a moment to help make our group better. Please fill out our little survey, and tell us what you think! [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/C9YR7XB](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/C9YR7XB). For more info or to be added to our email list, email 2030s@ccuu.org.

40-50 Somethings
The 40-50s group is for those too old for the 20-30s group and not yet ready for the Transitions group (and the ages listed are guidelines; if you’re over 59, you’re still welcome to join us!) To be on our email list to receive notification of upcoming events, go to [http://ccuu.org/mailman/listinfo/4050slist_ccuu.org](http://ccuu.org/mailman/listinfo/4050slist_ccuu.org).

Stoking Justice
Mondays through Dec 3, 7 pm
Each of the sessions in our review of Alexis du Tocqueville’s classic book Democracy in America is independent. Feel free to drop in any Monday night to participate in discussing his insights on the topic of the evening. We will continue through Dec 3, 7 to 9 pm, in classroom 1.

Buddhist Study Group ~ 2nd Sundays
The Buddhist Study Group meets the 2nd Sunday of the month from 12:00 to 1:30. Everyone is welcome.

Book Discussions
Book Circle: Nov 4
All are welcome to join us in classroom 6 to discuss Doughnut Economics: Seven Ways to Think Like a 21st Century Economist by Kate Raworth. We gather at 6:15 pm, discussion begins at 6:30 pm.

Last Mondays Book Group: Nov 26
Join us at 7 pm in the Stokes Room to discuss Less by Andrew Sean Greer.

Mary Oliver Poetry Series
Not meeting in Nov, Dec
Note: due to the holidays, we are skipping Nov & Dec. Stay tuned for announcement of 2019 dates.

Feminine Divine Women’s Group
4th Saturdays, 9:30 am
Join us in classroom 6. This year, we are reading some books with a feminine divine or feminine historical theme; The first book we are discussing is Men Explain Things to Me by Rebecca Solnit.

Yoga ~ 1st & 3rd Thursdays, 6-7 pm
Join us in the Spirit Play Room (rm 9/10) for this all-levels class, which focuses on stretches and poses that calm the mind while increasing balance, range of motion, and core strength. Questions? Contact Laura Mandell.

Resistance and Transformation
An Adult Faith Development Series
This series is part of the UUA Tapestry of Faith curricula and is grounded in Unitarian Universalist social history, theology, and current events. This series will be taught by various members of the congregation and some by Rev. Hilary and Kathy Underwood. Sessions will be held from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm; lunch and childcare will be available. Please register online so we have a better idea when ordering lunch: [https://ccuu.breezechms.com/form/Resistance-Transformation](https://ccuu.breezechms.com/form/Resistance-Transformation)
You do not need to attend every session; here is the list of upcoming sessions:
- Nov 11: Unitarian & Universalist Responses to War & Pacifism
- Nov 25: UU Visions of Utopianism and the Challenge of Idealism
- Dec 9: Free & Responsible Speech—past & present
- Jan 13: Moving Beyond the Walls—taking politics public
- Jan 27: Civil Rights in the Unitarian Universalist Context
(Note: topics may be rearranged, depending on availability of session leaders; watch e-updates & Sunday Times for most up to date information)

Atheist, Humanist, Agnostic (AHA) Discussion
2nd Tuesdays, 7 pm
All are welcome to join us in classroom 4. On Nov 13, we will review the results of the mid-term election which will have taken place one week earlier. If we get tired of election talk, we may start watching a video entitled “Revolutionary: Michael Behe and the Mystery of Molecular Machines.” It was produced by the Discovery Institute. It is a defense of Michael Behe and his arguments for irreducible Complexity. It addresses the results of the Kitzmiller vs Dover School District trial from ten years ago, in which Behe was the primary witness for the defense.

Open Forum Discussion
Sundays, 9-9:50 am
Please join us in classroom 5 to discuss “the issues of the day” while respectfully welcoming different perspectives. Topics for the upcoming two Sundays are least likely to change, but current events developments or other factors sometimes inspire us to switch.
- Nov 4: Philosophy & Technology, from Aristotle to Heidegger, a miniseries in 5 parts; part 1: Aristotle
- Nov 11: Homicide Rates ~ New York City vs. Chicago
- Nov 18: Philosophy & Technology, from Aristotle to Heidegger, a miniseries in 5 parts; part 2: Kant
- Nov 25: the State of US Education, from Kdog through College – what is it? why? What might be done to improve it?
- Dec 2: Philosophy & Technology, from Aristotle to Heidegger, a miniseries in 5 parts; part 3: Hegel
Church Year Highlights to Come

Mark Your Calendar

December ~ Theme: Mystery
2 Congregational Potluck (25th Anniv of 1025 N Smith)
9 Fair Trade Bazaar
16 All-Church C’mas Pageant
TBA Winter Solstice Service
24 Cmas Eve Candlelight Service

January ~ Theme: Possibility
20 All-Church MLK Service followed by monthly potluck lunch

February ~ Theme: Trust
Annual Stewardship Drive
10 ChocolateFest potluck during Coffee hours
24 All-Church Sr High Service

March ~ Theme: Journey
2 Music with a Mission
10 Indoor Farmers Market
17 Monthly Potluck after worship

April ~ Theme: Wholeness
14 Monthly Potluck after worship
20 Easter
19 or 26 Passover Seder
28 All-Church Earth Day worship service; Child Dedications

May ~ Theme: Curiosity
5 All-Church Coming of Age Service
19 Congregational Annual Meeting

June ~ Theme: Beauty
2 All-Church Flower Communion
9 All-Church Pride Service
16 Summer Solstice Service
19-23: UU General Assembly in Spokane WA

History of Death, UU Style

From Harvard Square Library, the Digital Library of Unitarian Universalism

This Autumn, Celebrate the History of UU Attitudes and Activism Related to Death. The earliest Anglo-American burials in Puritan North America took place in graveyards, where grave markers often included the motif of a skull, or death head, sometimes with or without wings. These markers, as well as the burial grounds themselves were intended to make people fearful. They were reminders that not only is death always rushing towards us, but that it is likely accompanied by damnation. Over the course of the next hundred years, the images on grave markers change. The skull begins to morph into more of a face, the teeth lose their points, and flowers spring up where before there crossed bones. Liberal religion both caused and was caused by the transformations that made that such a progression from fear to hope possible.

Unitarians, Universalists, and Unitarian Universalists have made many contributions to the ministry of death and dying since then.


Save the Date: MidAmerica Regional Assembly

April 5-7, 2019 in St Louis Missouri

Keynote: UUA President Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray

Our theme is Intersectionalities – how we live, work, and relate, as well as share, withhold, and leverage power in our world. Presentations and workshops will explore identities we encounter and embody, the challenges of social inequality, and tools & skills we need in order to work more effectively with one another, as well as the general ‘nuts & bolts’ of congregational life, such as leadership, stewardship, membership, and religious education. Join us to explore, share, and worship with fellow Unitarian Universalists.

More info: www.uua.org/midamerica/ra

Are you a gracious host/ess?

Welcome people to our spiritual home in the same way you would welcome them to your residence. Sign up online to help - http://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a044ea4a72fa13-sunday. Contact the church office with questions. Thank you, all!

UU Men’s Retreat ~ Register Now

Jan 25-27, 2019

Unity Temple men’s group invites men from other UU congregations to join them at Cabriini Retreat Center in Des Plaines. This year’s retreat theme, It’s My Story (And I’m Sticking to it), will involve us sharing our own stories. Good times, low times, or just humorous stories. It’s time to share. New this year, we will offer Saturday only participation for $50. Please join us for this long-standing event. Registration form is available on the revolving kiosk in the narthex (lobby area outside sanctuary) and on the kinship ministry table in Atherton Hall.

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 the Rev. Lindsay Bates. These are free, and registration is required. To register, email kmitchell@wellnesshouse.org or call 630-654-5197.

Have a Smart Phone or Tablet?

Download the free Breeze CHMS (church management system) app! Once downloaded, the church ID is CCUU. Check your giving and access the church directory right from your phone.
# Upcoming Church Meetings & Events: Nov-Dec

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 4</td>
<td><em>Clocks Fall Back</em></td>
<td>9 am</td>
<td>Open Forum</td>
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<td>10 am</td>
<td>Worship &amp; Relig. Educ</td>
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<td>11 am Intro to CCUU</td>
<td>11:15 am</td>
<td>Children’s Choir</td>
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<td>11:20 am 20-30 Somethings</td>
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<td>Book Circle</td>
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<td>5 pm Stoking Justice</td>
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<td>6 pm Election Day</td>
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<td>7 pm Choir Rehearsal</td>
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<td>11:30 am Resistance &amp; Transformation</td>
<td>12 pm</td>
<td>Buddhist Study Group</td>
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<td>COA Mtg (youth &amp; mentors)</td>
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<td>19 pm Stoking Justice</td>
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<td>11:30 am Social Action Mtg</td>
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<td>Resistance &amp; Transformation</td>
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<td>26 pm Focus deadline</td>
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<td>Nov 30</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.**

### Oct 31
- Focus publication
- 10 am Journaling Circle
- 6 pm Yoga
- 7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal

### Nov 1
- Nov 1
  - 10 am Journaling Circle
  - 6 pm Yoga
  - 7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal

### Nov 2
- Nov 2
  - 10 am Memoir Makers
  - 7 pm Movies with Meaning

### Nov 3
- Nov 3
  - 10 am Wellness House Hypnosis Group & Reiki Sessions
  - 40-50s Gathering (tba)

### Nov 4
- Nov 4
  - *Clocks Fall Back*
  - 9 am Open Forum
  - 10 am Worship & Relig. Educ
  - 11 am Intro to CCUU
  - 11:15 am Children’s Choir
  - 11:20 am 20-30 Somethings
  - 6:15 pm Book Circle
  - 5 pm Stoking Justice
  - 6 pm Election Day
  - 7 pm Choir Rehearsal

### Nov 11
- Nov 11
  - 9 am Open Forum
  - 10 am Worship & Relig. Educ
  - 10 am-2 pm Farmers Market
  - 11:15 am Children’s Choir
  - 11:30 am Green Sanctuary
  - 11:30 am Resistance & Transformation
  - 12 pm Buddhist Study Group
  - 12 pm Stoking Justice
  - 13 pm Atheist-Humanist-Agnostic Discussion
  - 14 pm Great Books Group
  - 7 pm Finance Ctte

### Nov 18
- Nov 18
  - 9 am Open Forum
  - 10 am Worship & Relig. Educ
  - 11 am Fellowships
  - 11:15 am Children’s Choir
  - 11:30 am Social Action Mtg
  - 11:30 am Resistance & Transformation
  - 19 pm Stoking Justice
  - 20 pm Soul Connections daytime grp
  - 7 pm Soul Connections Tues eve grp

### Nov 25
- Nov 25
  - 9 am Open Forum
  - 10 am Worship & Relig. Educ
  - 11 am Fellowships
  - 11:15 am Children’s Choir
  - 11:20 am 20-30 Somethings
  - 26 pm Focus deadline
  - 7 pm Stoking Justice
  - 7 pm Outreach Steering Mtg
  - 7 pm Last Mondays Book Discussion

### Nov 30
- Nov 30
  - 6 pm 20-30s Tree Decorating & Potluck

### Dec 1
- Dec 1
  - 10 am Wellness House Hypnosis Group & Reiki Sessions
  - 7 pm Caroling & Craft Party

### Dec 2
- Dec 2
  - 9 am Open Forum
  - 10 am All-Church Chalice Svc
  - 11 am Intro to CCUU
  - 11:15 am Children’s Choir
  - 11:20 am 20-30 Somethings
  - 3 pm Stoking Justice
  - 4 pm Focus publication
  - 7 pm Current Issues Read w. Minister

### Dec 9
- Dec 9
  - 9 am Open Forum
  - 9:30 pm Fair Trade Bazaar
  - 10 am Worship & Relig. Educ
  - 11:15 am Children’s Choir
  - 11:30 am Green Sanctuary
  - 11:30 am Resistance & Transformation
  - 11:30 am COA Mtg
  - 12 pm Buddhist Study Group
  - 10 pm Stoking Justice
  - 11 pm Atheist-Humanist-Agnostic Discussion
  - 12 pm Great Books Group
  - 7 pm Finance Ctte

### Dec 14
- Dec 14
  - 10 am Memoir Makers
  - 7 pm Movies with Meaning

### Dec 15
- Dec 15
  - 7 pm Caroling & Potluck
2018 Time and Talent Auction

Moved by the World

Make your reservation by November 11

Join us in celebration and support of our world and its diverse landscapes, people, and cultures!
Saturday, November 17, 6 pm, in Atherton Hall

Ticket Price $30

Who benefits from the Time and Talent Auction fundraiser?

- Interfaith Committee for Detained Immigrants (ICDI) is 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 and advocate for change.
- Faith in Place empowers Illinois people of all faiths to be leaders in caring for the Earth, providing resources to educate, connect, and advocate for healthier communities.
- Partners for Our Community (POC) works to connect underserved residents in the Palatine area to services and resources to build a community of empowered people, healthy families, and vibrant neighbors.
- Countryside Church Unitarian Universalist (CCUU) also benefits through proceeds of the ticket sales, as well as a Raise the Paddle item offered during the Live Auction.

Can’t attend but still want to show your support?

- Special ‘Raise the Paddle’ opportunities will be advertised as part of the Live Auction. You can contribute to those items until Sunday, November 25.
- Check Atherton Hall on Sunday, Nov 18 for class signups that may still have openings!
- You can purchase Split the Pot raffle tickets ($5 each or 6/$25); you need not be present to win the raffle.

What do you get for the price of your ticket?

You get an open door to an evening of fun and festivities, including a Middle Eastern feast, coffee and dessert, and amazing cultural dance and music show, cultural costume contest, friendly fellowship, and more!

Time and Talent Reservation Form

All Countryside members and friends are welcome!

Make your reservation by Sunday, November 11

Complete this form and deposit it along with your check (payable to CCUU) in the registration box at the church.

Name(s): ____________________________________________________________

Number of adults @ $30 _____ Total $_________

Split the Pot Raffle: $5 each or 6/$25. Raffle tickets are available at church. You need not be present to win.

# of Raffle Tickets: _____ Total $ for raffle: $_________

Total Check Amount: $____________

Phone #________________ Email_______________________________________________
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
Nov 26 (publ. Dec 5) Jan 2 (publ. Jan 10) Jan 28 (publ. Feb 6)
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.

Lay Ministers
Ken Bobbe, Coordinator Melanie Schikore
Karen Greenland Joy Simon
Barbara Griggs Chris Smith
For assistance from Lay or Care Ministry, please call Ken or Rev. Hilary.

Published by Countryside Church UU
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Interim Director of Lifespan Kathy Underwood
Religious Education DLRE@ccuu.org
Community Minister Rev. Dr. C. Scot Giles
Music Director Alison Vernon
Music Director Emeritus John Denny
Congregational Laurie Lantz
Administrator ccuu@ccuu.org
Religious Education (in search)
Assistant

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