From Your Board of Trustees

Happy New Year!

Whether you’re one to make New Year’s resolutions or not, there’s something about turning the last page of the calendar and starting a new year that causes us to pause, reflect on where we’ve been, and look to where we want to go. Over the past several months, CCUU has shown its resilience, generosity, and faith in a number of ways.

After saying goodbye to our DLRE Jules Jaramillo in June, Kathy Underwood stepped in as Interim DLRE and a Search Committee was quickly formed to find a replacement. We were very fortunate to have the dedicated efforts of Linda Berry and Debbie Lee, who volunteered countless hours to assist with RE administrative duties. Thanks to Kathy, Linda and Debbie, as well as our weekly RE teachers, the LRE program remains in good hands while we continue to look for a permanent replacement.

Additionally, due to your extraordinary generosity, our mortgage paydown campaign raised approximately $87,000. Combined with the $6,700 surplus from the 2017-18 budget, we will be able to pay down our mortgage by about $93,000 (or about 25%). Because of this paydown in principal, we will save ourselves about $12,000/year in mortgage payments. After taking into account the increase in interest rates under the terms of our new mortgage and the reduced principal amount of the loan, our annual mortgage payments will be reduced by $6,000/year.

Last May at the annual meeting, the board expressed our commitment to providing health benefits for our staff. Last October, we took the first step in doing so by committing to offer payment of 80% of the cost of premiums in a UUA health plan for full-time staff. This is just the first step in bridging the gap between what we have been providing and what we aim to provide, but it is a meaningful step nonetheless.

As we look to the coming year, one word seems to come to mind (and not just because it’s this month’s theme) – possibility. 2019 is filled with possibilities for the growth and development of our LRE program, more impactful social justice action, stronger relationships with our service partners, and a more robust commitment to living our values within CCUU and the larger community.

As UUs, mere possibility isn’t enough, however; possibility must be accompanied by meaningful and intentional action. We can take meaningful and intentional action to fulfill our commitments, and move the needle of progress when we “pledge to the possibilities” during our 2019-20 stewardship drive, which will kick off on January 27 and conclude on February 10 at our Chocolate-Fest Potluck. It’s important that we all give as generously as we can so that we can take care of our staff and programs and truly live our values.

As we embark on a new calendar year and begin planning for a new church year, it’s important to remember that achieving the possibilities involves both faith and action. May we show that we here at CCUU have both.

In faith and action,
Christine Organ
President, Board of Trustees

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.
Minister’s Muse

There is a certain fatigue that hits just after the holidays. Maybe it is just relaxation. Or the many rituals of food… Anyway, after the pageant, the Christmas Eve service, the New Year’s service, there is a time to unwind, just as planning for the winter and spring gears up. This year, instead, I find myself renewed and inspired by the services. Sounds more than a little self-serving. But, really, what inspired this during our recent worship services was the teamwork of the worship council and many others.

I love the services that have been traditional for us. Sermon-centered, consistent from week to week. There are important messages to share in that form; ideas to share, to hear. And there is the real value of consistency, ritual, and predictability that allows people to relax in some ways during this service, not wondering what comes next.

However, in some of our recent services, the message has been broken up into smaller pieces, more voices have been included, sometimes more music, sometimes more congregational participation, and sometimes (gasp) even movement.

For example, when there are more readings and more readers, more voices to be heard and more faces are seen, which lends a richer texture to worship services. True, that sometimes takes a bit more choreography, but it’s worth it.

The members of our adult choir meet with our director to practice every Thursday evening. Choir is both a spiritual practice for the participants as well as a group effort that enables our worship to deeply belong to all of us. When our music director Alison Vernon calls children who sing in the children’s choir up to join the adult choir, some added sweetness, sincerity, vulnerability, texture are given to the service. Surely, for those who were present for the Christmas Eve service, the voices of the children who joined the adult choir really brought alive the Unitarian Universalist message of Christmas that, “every child is a holy child.” As an added benefit, the inclusion of the children’s voices – just as with new and more adult voices, there is a stronger sense of congregational participation and investment in the service itself. Certainly, it’s a pleasure for me to see a wide variety of people involved in worship, but I know that even more, it is a pleasure for our families and for all of us to see that worship is a way that we can engage together in shaping and being shaped by that which is of worth.

On December 30, our worship service was quite different. We had stations set up around the sanctuary that represented different ways to release the old year and welcome the new one and, as Alison played the keyboard, the entire congregation moved from station to station to ring bells, leap (or step) over a faux fire, dissolve into water the burdens and bad habits of the old year to make room for something better in the new year. Of course, it was not a quiet, sedate service. The movement around the room, the sound of noisemakers, the ringing of bells all made the service richer in texture and engagement.

Behind-the-scenes, the support and energy of quite a team brought all the elements together. Things were ar

Minister’s Muse (cont’d)
ranged before people walked into the sanctuary, and everything was tidied up after the service. All of that behind-the-scenes assistance and support allow us to enjoy a more richly textured worship.

A delicious potluck, great worship, or excellent congregational governance all require cooperation, the building of relationships, welcome and willing engagement, and the sharing of creative ideas. I look forward to sharing all of these things in the new year.

Upcoming Worship Services

Worship Services & Religious Education classes are on Sundays at 10:00 am.
Young people attend the beginning of worship with their families unless otherwise indicated below.
NOTE: Announcements begin 5 minutes prior to the start of the worship service.
Worship descriptions are also on the church website: http://ccuu.org/services/

Jan 13 Interfaith Community for Detained Immigrants (ICDI)
This year, each of our outreach service partners will be featured in a worship service so we can learn more about their ministry. Join us to learn more about ICDI.

Jan 20 All-Church MLK Service, Rev. Hilary Landau Krivchenia
This is an All-Church Service; young people attend the service with their families.
Share the Plate: Half of the plate cash will be shared with Lawndale Christian Legal Center, http://lcclc.net/
Join us following the worship service for a congregational potluck lunch; bring a dish to share and join us for fellowship.

Jan 27 Rev. Hilary Landau Krivchenia
Feb 3 Rev. Dr. C. Scot Giles
Share the Plate: Half of the plate cash will be shared with the UU Society for Community Ministry.

Feb 10 Rev. Hilary Landau Krivchenia
Share the Plate: Half of the plate cash will be shared with The Citizens Foundation-USA, TCF-USA.
Join us after the service for a congregational potluck and ChocolateFest!

Feb 17 Partners for Our Communities
This is the second in our series of services featuring our outreach service partners.

Feb 24 Senior High Youth Service
Join us as our youth group leads us in worship. This is an All-Church Service; young people attend worship with their families. Share the Plate: Half of the plate cash will be shared with GenderCool Project, https://gendercool.org/.

(continued...)
From Our Interim Director of Lifespan Religious Education (DLRE)

I often ask parents what brought them to a UU congregation. Most will say they wanted their children to learn the values we hold dear, to be humble and gracious, and to make the world a better place. It is interesting to me that very few will say that it was because they needed a place that would fill them, as an adult, spiritually. This is changing. Parents are looking for, and NEED, a place where they can be spiritually fed. Like the expression, “If mama ain’t happy, then nobody’s happy,” if our parents aren’t feeling nourished and supported, then they will go elsewhere and bring their children with them.

The big topic in the religious education world these days is the future of faith formation. We are seeing a decline in participation in many aspects of congregational life: attending worship, joining committees, and children attending religious education, to name a few. At the Liberal Religious Educator’s Association conference, I attended a workshop led by Laura Beth Brown from Beacon UU outside of NYC. One thing she said caught my attention, “Families with kids have become the canaries in the coal mine of our UU faith, signaling that what we’re doing isn’t sustainable.”

So what happens to our spiritual home here at Countryside if our parents aren’t being nourished and supported? We say that it takes a village to raise a child. This can be seen in two ways. First, parents need the support of their village to have the sustenance needed for the challenging task of child-rearing. Secondly, we can think of it as that it requires more than just the parents to raise a child, but rather a whole lot of people in the village to pitch in and get their hands dirty, so-to-speak.

Part of this conversation connects to volunteerism. There is an expectation of parents to volunteer, in particular within the religious education program. As their child’s primary educator, their involvement is crucial. There are all sorts of studies in education that show a correlation between a parent’s involvement and their child’s success. Despite this, there are parents who do not volunteer. Of course, there can be many reasons why they don’t – some more legitimate than others. This leads us to ask some questions: Is there something we can do to encourage parents who are not involved to do otherwise? What can we do to support and nourish parents as their child’s primary religious educator? How can we encourage older adults in realizing that their continued learning is central to guiding the younger generations?

There has been a shift in the thinking that parents should be the ones volunteering in the religious education program – this way of thinking is not serving us as well as it has in the past. If parents are volunteering less, then what happens? This brings me to the second point mentioned above: that it takes a lot of people in the village to be actively involved. How we navigate this change in our congregational thinking will greatly affect the future of our faith.

There are many ways to address this, of course. My hope is to begin some of these conversations with you over the next few months – to think about the future of faith formation and how this is connected to helping parents and families, so that they can be the beacon of light in the world that we sorely need. Are we willing to take a leap of faith and try some new possibilities along the way?

In faith,
Kathy

Village People Needed

There are many ways to support our parents and families by being involved in the religious education program! Taking care of babies and toddlers, teaching a class once a month, helping with social action projects, and more! Email Kathy at dlre@ccuu.org for details, or sign up via the LRE Update.

Guest at Your Table Collection Jan 13

GAYT is UU Service Committee’s annual intergenerational program to raise support for and awareness about critical human rights issues. Donations help UUSC and their partners respond to extraordinary human rights challenges of today, address root causes of injustice, and build capacity to respond to future crises.

Bring your boxes by January 13 to the specially-marked basket by the Study Table in Atherton Hall. If you did not receive a collection box, you can contribute cash or a check payable to UUSC. We will collect donations prior to and during our January 13 worship service.

Contributions of any amount qualify for UUSC membership. Contributions of $125 or more are eligible to be matched dollar-for-dollar by the UU Congregation of Shelter Rock in Manhasset, NY. More info at uusc.org/guest.

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@ccuu.org.

Discussion with Cliff Nellis: Jan 20

Cliff Nellis, Executive Director of Lawndale Christian Legal Center, will be with us on Jan 20 and will lead a discussion after the service regarding the recent Federal Criminal Justice Legislation and Governor Pritzker’s new Panel on Restorative Justice and Safe Communities. Please join us to learn more about these two current events or to get answers to your questions regarding juvenile criminal justice in Chicago.

Where Will You Be on MLK Day?

You are invited to join other Countryside residents at Community Renewal Society’s MLK Faith in Action Assembly on Jan 21 at Liberty Baptist Church in Chicago. Free round-trip bus service provided with advance registration. See details on p.9 of this newsletter.

Help Provide PADS Meal on January 23

Our congregation provides the dinner for the PADS shelter at the Presbyterian Church of Palatine on the 4th Wednesday of the month, October through April. If you can provide part of this month’s meal, please sign up
Full Week Faith

We light this chalice for the possibilities in our lives:

There is possibility
There is a possibility that you can go somewhere
There is a possibility that you can do it
There is a possibility to make a difference
There is a possibility to dream
There is a possibility if you believe
There is a possibility

~Soleil DeLorge~

Spiritual Reflections and Connecting with Our UU Faith

Each month, we connect our monthly theme to one of our Principles or Sources. This month, we explore our third source: words and deeds of prophetic people which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love.

Each week try doing any of the following either alone or with a friend, partner, or as a family:

- Think about the people whom you believe are prophetic. Journal or discuss with others what characteristics they have that makes them so. Do you have any of these? Which one(s) do you wish to strive for and how?
- What one power or structure of evil would you most want to get rid of in the world? How is this connected to others? Find an organization that addresses this. If possible, visit the organization and learn how you can help.
- Use your creativity and make something that represents justice, compassion, or the transforming power of love. Not feeling creative? Look for things in your home or workplace that represent these things. What is it about them that represents these things?
- Regarding the saying, “the possibilities are endless,” do you find yourself willing to take risks in order to discover new possibilities? Why or why not? Consider taking one you’ve thought of doing, and challenge yourself to take some small steps towards it. When you finish it, reflect on how it made you feel beforehand, during, and afterwards. Would you try another possibility?

Books & Movies you might enjoy this month

Books/Stories for children & youth:
- Oh, The Places You’ll Go by Dr. Seuss
- Good People Everywhere by Lynea Gillen
- The water of possibility by Hiromi Goto
- The Lightning Queen by Laura Resau
- The Lost Track of Time by Paige Britt

Books & Articles for adults:
- The Art of Possibility: Transforming Professional and Personal Life by Rosamund Stone Zander and Benjamin Zander
- The Tipping Point by Malcom Gladwell
- To Pray Without Apology: Imagining the Possibility of MLK as a UU by Rosemary Bray McNatt, https://www.uuworld.org/articles/why-martin-luther-king-jr-wasnt-uu

Movies:

On Prophetic Men and Women:

On Possibility:
- Ballast (NR) - On the possibility of moving on, together. https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/1197307_ballast/
- Man on Wire (PG13) - After watching, very little will seem impossible! https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/man_on_wire/
- Billy Elliot (R) - One of the best films of all time about the possibility of pursuing your dreams despite the odds. https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/billy_elliot
- Big Fish (PG13) - perfect film about for convincing you to believe the unbelievable. Maybe anything is possible! https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/1127787_big_fish
- Ratatouille (G) - Not just for kids! If a rat can make his dream a reality, then so can we! https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/ratatouille

Calling All Creative People

If you have original artwork such as paintings, pottery, photography, sculpture, writing, etc. that convey our 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: Jan-Possibility, Feb-Trust, March-Journey, April-Wholeness, May-Curiosity, June-Beauty.
What does it mean to be a People of Possibility?

Of all our topics this year, possibility is arguably most central to our faith. It has distinguished Unitarian Universalists from the start. Historically, when others saw depravity and sin at the core of human identity, we saw potential—sometimes with hardly any boundaries. When many were preaching that this world was fallen, and we should look instead to the hope of an afterlife, we found ourselves falling in love with the possibility of heaven on earth. Theologically, you might say that we were the people that believed that God hadn’t given up on any of us and so we shouldn’t give up on each other or this world. Psychologically, it’s led to us being a people of “why not?” Why not give people another chance? Why not fight what seems a losing battle? Why not risk a little failure? After all, to us the possible has always seemed more likely than not!

So that’s our religion. But what about us personally? How open have you been recently to “Why not?” How’s your faith in possibility doing? As we honor our religion’s trust in what’s possible, we need to allow space for the reality that trusting possibility isn’t so easy for many of us. Here’s how one Soul Matters member puts the challenge:

“When I think of possibility, I think of all the people and opportunities we close the door on. Such as: ‘I will never see eye to eye with my sister.’ ‘I couldn’t possibly leave this job to start my own business’ ‘I will never have close friends like I had where I used to live.’ ‘I will never really make a difference, so why bother?’ ‘UU’s will always be a small faith.’

We tell ourselves so many small things about who we and others are. And we know that’s not really because we’re pessimistic. More often than not, it’s about protecting ourselves. There’s comfort in convincing yourself that the work is hopeless; that way you don’t have to try and risk failure, hurt or disappointment yet again.

All of which is to say that maybe being a people of possibility has more to do with being a people of vulnerability and courage than we’ve thought. The work isn’t just about believing in possibility. It’s about being willing to endure a few wounds along the way. It can hurt to be hopeful. Especially with all that is going on in our world and society right now, we need to make room for that.

So maybe the question this month isn’t “Are you ready to lean into possibility?” but “Who’s beside you and who are you bringing along?” “Who have you gathered to patch and pick you up when the path gets bumpy?” After all, no one makes it down the road of possibility alone.

And perhaps that’s the real secret: remembering that “Why not?” is something we all have to say together.

Possibility 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. Who taught you the most about “living and leaning into possibility”? How does their memory call you to today?
2. What did your childhood and family of origin teach you about possibility? Are those lessons ones you need to remember or reject?
3. What are others learning about living and leaning into possibility by watching you?
4. We all have dreams of what’s possible. We live with a voice that says “One day I will...” What “possible life” has been with you the longest? Why has it remained a dream for so long?
5. What “possible new you” did you pledge yourself to last new year’s? Is it time to pledge yourself to it again? Or is time to finally let it go?
6. Is it possible that the thing you want is not the thing you need?
7. Is it possible that the thing you’re sure you’re right about is wrong?
8. Is “That was unfair!” or “I was wronged” keeping you from the possibility of moving on?
9. Is avoiding rejection keeping you safe but also keeping you from what’s possible?
10. Are you sure you’re too old to do it?
11. Are you sure it’s too late to try it?
12. Is there more to see in your “enemy” than what you’ve been staring at?
13. Is it possible that your loved one is doing the best they can? And finally need forgiven for not living up to who you want them to be?

Our Soul Connections small ministry groups discuss the monthly themes, questions, and activities each month. For further info regarding the Soul Connections program, email Don Bussey, SoulConnections@ccuu.org

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Soulful Home

Bringing Theme Exploration Into Family Life

Soulful Home is a monthly guide organized around eight distinct family "spaces" with ideas and resources to fill those spaces with UU theme-based exploration. We know that family life is very full, so this guide offers manageable activities and adventures that can be woven into the regular routines and spaces that families already share. As the Soulful Home tagline says, it’s all about “Exploring the Sacred in Everyday Spaces!” Go to https://www.soulmatterssharingcircle.com/soulful-home.html for details about how your family can subscribe.
**Kinship & Study Groups which meet regularly**

**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? Email Laura.Mandell@comcast.net.

**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. 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!) We generally meet on the 1st Saturday of the month. To be on our email list to receive notification of upcoming events, go to http://ccuu.org/mailman/listinfo/4050slist_ccuu.org

**Buddhist Study Group ~ 2nd Sundays**
The Buddhist Study Group meets the 2nd Sunday of the month from 11:45 am to 1:15 pm. Everyone is welcome. We read selected Buddhist texts, discuss them, and try to apply the principles and techniques to our everyday lives.

**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.

**Last Mondays Book Group: Jan 28**
We will not meet in December. Join us at 7 pm in the Stokes Room to discuss *Prayer for Owen Meany* by John Irving. In January, we will discuss the first 5 chapters (about half the book), and we’ll discuss the remaining chapters in February.

**Young Adults Gathering: Jan 20, 6 pm**
Those who are 18-30 years of age, whether newly out of school or attending college or working, are invited to meet in room 4 for conversation and community. For more info, contact Kim at Kimberlynann417@gmail.com.

**Journaling Circle ~ 1st Thursdays, 10am**
*Writing Together for Self-Discovery*
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.

**New! Current Issues Read with the Minister**
1st Wednesdays, 7 pm
Join Rev. Hilary on February 6 in classroom 1 to discuss White Fragility by Robin DiAngelo. [https://www.uuabookstore.org/White-Fragility-P18343.aspx](https://www.uuabookstore.org/White-Fragility-P18343.aspx)

**Resistance and Transformation**
*An Adult Faith Development Series*
This series is grounded in Unitarian Universalist social history, theology, and current events. This series is taught by various members of the congregation and some by Rev. Hilary and Interim DLRE Kathy Underwood. Sessions are held from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm; childcare is available. Please bring a sack lunch.

You do not need to attend every session. Although you can attend without registering, it does help us with planning: https://ccuu.breezepsms.com/form/Resistance-Transformation. Dates & topics for the next few sessions:
- Jan 13: Moving Beyond the Walls—taking politics public
- Jan 27: Civil Rights in the Unitarian Universalist Context
- Feb 10: UU Response to Black Empowerment

**Atheist, Humanist, Agnostic (AHA) Discussion**
2nd Tuesdays, 7 pm
All are welcome to join us in classroom 4.

**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: Jan 24, 10 am**
Join us for our monthly program on January 24 at 10 am in Atherton Hall. Jim Simmons will present the program: *A Focus on History’s Good News—the Last 200 Years.* Potluck lunch will follow; bring a dish to share or your own individual lunch. All are welcome; invite a friend!

**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. For more information and/or to join the Forum email list, email vidaxel@axeldesigns.com.

Upcoming topics for discussion:
- Jan 13: When They Discuss Their Disagreements, Why Are People So Unpersuasive? (we are revisiting this topic after initially discussing on Oct 14)
- Jan 20: Partisan Duopoly?
- Jan 27: What explains the spread of illiberal democracy in the world? Is there any turning back
- Feb 3: U.S. Federal Taxes, Both Now & Historically
- Feb 10: Is Smart Technology Making Us Dumb?
Path to Belonging
Feb 10 & 17, 11:30 am—2:30 pm
Ready to learn more about what it means to be part of the CCUU community? Path to Belonging 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. Future sessions have been scheduled for June 2 & 9. Sign up at the greeter window or email Tom MacTavish, Membership@ccuu.org.

Church Year Highlights to Come
Mark Your Calendar
February ~ Theme: Trust
- Jan 27-Feb 10: 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
- 5-7 MidAmerica Regional Assembly in St Louis
- 7 Western Crescent Choral Fest at CCUU
- 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

Our Winter Weather Closing Policy
Now that winter weather is upon us, please remember that if the decision is made to close the church, we will publicize the decision:
- on the church website,
- on the church Facebook page,
- on the Congregational Administrator’s voicemail message (847-359-8440 ext 1), and
- with the Emergency Closing Center (which publicizes on the local TV and radio stations).

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

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.

Hospitality Needed
Welcome people to our spiritual home in the same way you would welcome them to your residence. We will especially need ushers on Christmas Eve to help with the candlelighting ritual in addition to normal usher duties. Sign up online to help - [http://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a044ea4a72fa13-sunday](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a044ea4a72fa13-sunday)— or go to [www.ccuu.org](http://www.ccuu.org) and click on the ‘opportunities to serve’ graphic. Contact the church office with questions. Thank you, all!

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.

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

MidAmerica Regional Assembly
**April 5-7, 2019 in St Louis Missouri**
**Keynote: UUA President Rev. 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](http://www.uua.org/midamerica/ra)
UU Men’s Retreat ~ Jan 25-27, 2019
Unity Temple men’s group invites men from other UU congregations to join them at Cabrini 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.

UU-United Nations Office Intergenerational Spring Seminar
April 11-13 ~ Early Registr ends Jan 21
Join us in New York City
Register by January 21 for Early Bird rates. Registration closes February 25.

The UU United Nations Office is excited to host this year’s Seminar in collaboration with the UU College of Social Justice. Programming will be interactive and intergenerational, encouraging participants to challenge their assumptions, connecting their activism with grounding in UU faith, and empowering them with the tools to bring back to their communities to make change locally and globally.

Special 2019 Young Adult Rates! This year’s Seminar hopes to help more Young Adults between the ages of 18 and 35 attend - including those who have attended before as Youth. This year, the Young Adult registration rate includes lodging at Hostelling International NY. If any Young Adults do not wish to stay at the hostel, there is an additional discount available during the registration process.

Apply for Reduced Registration! Limited funds are available to cover reduced registration costs for some participants. Applications must be completed online by noon EST January 14th, 2019. Apply here. We are endeavoring to reduce the financial obstacles for attendance as much as possible, especially for religious professionals and young adult (18-35 yrs) participants who demonstrate financial need. We are also prioritizing Reduced Registration for people of color, indigenous people, immigrants and refugees, and/or people from other historically marginalized and/or oppressed communities.

UU Bed & Breakfast in Fort Myers, FL
The UU Church of Fort Myers runs this program as a fundraiser January through April each year. Stay with a UU host family for up to seven days. Pick up a pamphlet & registration form from the bulletin board across from the church office (under “Our Denomination”). For more info, go to http://www.uucfm.org/about-uucfm/hospitality/bed-a-breakfast or email bedandbreakfast@uucfm.org.

WhaleCoast Alaska 2019
Four UU congregations in Alaska invite you to our awe-inspiring 25th annual Alaska tour program. See Alaska through the eyes of local UUs, with friendly homestays and unique tour activities. Find out more about this Alaskan trip of a lifetime. For complete info, go to Whale-CoastAK.org, email dfrey@whalecoastak.org, call 907-322-4966, or email DFrey@whalecoastak.org. Discount for groups of 8 or more. We would love to share our Alaska with you!

Outside Groups Held at & Open to CCUU
Several outside groups use space at Countryside Church UU and are in alignment with our UU Principles and open to participation by all. There may be a participation fee or other requirements set by the group and which apply to all participants, regardless of CCUU affiliation.

- Agape—A Community of New Hope holds worship in our Sanctuary on Saturday evenings. We are happy to help an emerging faith community that, although a different denomination, is welcoming of all and aligns with UUism on social justice issues.

- Transcend is a program of Youth Outlook which meets here every Wednesday evening. It is a support group focusing on gender identity and is geared towards Trans youth. It is suggested for 14-20 yr olds. For more info, go to www.youth-outlook.org or talk to CCUU member Kimberly Frank.

- Journey Transgender Support Group is for anyone transgender, gender queer, androgyous, or gender questioning; meets the 2nd and 4th Sundays at 2:30 pm in classroom 5. Meetings are limited to people 18 or over, unless accompanied by a parent. transgender_journey-subscribe@yahoo groups.com

- Great Plains Zen Center (GPZC) sits meditation on Sundays at 7 pm and offers monthly Intro to Zen workshops. For more info about GPZC’s programs, refer to "Other Religious Voices" bulletin board across from the church office or go to www.greatplainszen.org.

- AA: Men’s Meeting: Saturdays, 9-10 am; Women's Meeting: Fridays, 7:30 pm

- Job Search Circle (JSC) meets in Atherton Hall on Wednesdays, 9-11am. $5/meeting. Dress code is business casual. For more info, contact JSC founder Rose-mary Monahan, Rmonahan@improve-ization.com.

- Career Communicators is a Toastmasters International Club dedicated to professional speaking. Meets in Atherton Hall the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month, 7-9 pm. For more info, visit www.careercommunicators.com.

- Citizens’ Climate Lobby, Chicago Northwest Suburbs Chapter meets here 2nd Saturdays. For info, go to https://citizensclimatelobby.org/chapters/IL_Chicago_Northwest_Suburbs/

- St Hubert Job Ministry Events are nondenominational, free, open to all occupations, and held at various member churches. Upcoming event listings are posted on the Community bulletin board across from the church office or go to http://www.sainthubert.org/ministries/job.html
CCUU's Social Action Committee extends an invitation to spend MLK holiday with the Community Renewal Society of Chicago as it celebrates Dr. King’s vision and mission, while holding Chicago-area politicians accountable for the decisions they make.

UUs from area churches attend the assembly in large numbers. Community Renewal Society is a partner of UUANI (UU Advocacy Network of Illinois).

Free round-trip bus service provided with advance registration. Bus departs from:

First United Methodist Church
1903 E. Euclid Ave
Arlington Heights
*Bus leaves 7:30 AM sharp | Arrive by 7:15AM*

Register for the event in advance at bit.ly/CRSMLK2019

If you plan to take the bus, let Yvette know at yjohnson3145@comcast.net by January 15.
Stewardship Drive begins January 27—stay tuned for more info...

CCUU Annual Stewardship Campaign | January 27 to February 10

PLEDGE FOR THE POSSIBILITIES

As a congregation, we move forward. Together. Leaning into the possibilities. The potential for Countryside Church Unitarian Universalist involves us all and extends beyond our church walls.

The possibilities are rooted in our mission and realized in our actions. Today and tomorrow. The possibilities are distinct yet connected.


Service. Social justice. Healthy planet. And more!

Pledge for the possibilities. Complete pledge forms today.
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/. 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.

### January 2020

#### Jan 13
- **9 am** Open Forum
- **10am** Worship & Relig. Educ.
- **11:15am** Children’s Choir
- **11:30am** Green Sanctuary
- **11:30am** Resistance & Transformation
- **11:30am** COA Mtg (youth & mentors)
- **11:45am** Buddhist Study Grp

#### Jan 14
- **7pm** Outreach Steering Council Meeting

#### Jan 15
- **10am** Soul Connections daytime grp
- **7pm** Soul Connections Tues eve grp

#### Jan 16
- **7pm** Board Mtg

#### Jan 17
- **6pm** Yoga
- **7:15pm** Choir Rehearsal

#### Jan 18
- **7pm** Soul Connections Fri grps

#### Jan 19
- **9:30am** Feminine Divine Women’s Group

#### Jan 20
- **9 am** Open Forum
- **10am** All-Church MLK Service
- **11am** Congregational Potluck
- **11:15am** Children’s Choir
- **11:20am** 20-30 Somethings
- **12pm** Ministries Budget Planning Mtg

#### Jan 21
- **MLK Day ~ Church Offices Closed**

#### Jan 22
- **10am** Focus deadline
- **7pm Last Mondays Book Discussion**

#### Jan 23
- **10am** Great Books Grp
- **10am-4pm** PADS Meal Delivery

#### Jan 24
- **10am** Transitions 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal

#### Jan 25
- **9:30am** Coming of Age Retreat
- **UU Men’s Retreat in DesPlaines**

#### Jan 26
- **Feb 1**
- **Feb 2**
- **10am** Wellness House Hypnosis Group & Reiki Sessions
- **7pm 40-50s Gathering (tba)**

#### Feb 3
- **9 am** Open Forum
- **10am** Worship & Relig. Educ.
- **11am** Souper Bowl: Soup Lunch Fundraiser for Coming of Age program
- **11am** Intro to CCUU
- **11:15am** Children’s Choir
- **11:20am** 20-30 Somethings

#### Feb 4
- **Focus publication**
- **7pm** Current Issues Read with the Minister: White Fragility

#### Feb 5
- **10am** Jungian Circle
- **6pm** Yoga
- **7:15pm** Choir Rehearsal

#### Feb 6
- **10am** Memoir Makers

#### Feb 10
- **9 am** Open Forum
- **10am** Worship & Relig. Educ.
- **11am** Congregational Potluck & ChocolateFest
- **11:15am** Children’s Choir
- **11:30am** Path to Community
- **11:30am** Resistance & Transformation
- **11:30am** Green Sanctuary Mtg
- **11:30am** COA Mtg (youth-mentors)
- **11:45am** Buddhist Study Grp

#### Feb 11
- **7pm** Outreach Steering Council Meeting

#### Feb 12
- **7pm** Atheist-Humanist-Agnostic Discussion

#### Feb 13
- **10am** Great Books Group
- **7pm** Finance Ctte Mtg

#### Feb 14
- **7pm** Soul Connections Thurs grp
- **7:15pm** Choir Rehearsal

#### Feb 15
- **7pm** Soul Connections Fri grps

#### Feb 16
- **Circle Suppers**
- **Midwest UU Youth Camp Reunion @CCUU**
Focus
Published by Countryside Church UU
1025 N Smith Rd · Palatine IL 60067
847-359-8440 · ccuu@ccuu.org · www.ccuu.org

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
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.

Church Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 10am-4pm; Fri 9am-Noon
Minister Rev. Hilary L. Krivchenia
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
Music Director Emeritus Music.Director@ccuu.org
Administrator ccuu@ccuu.org
Religious Education Marisol Vazquez
Assistant RE.Assistant@ccuu.org

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.

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https://www.facebook.com/pages/Countryside-Church-

Time-dated material—Prompt Delivery Requested
Return Service Requested