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From Your Board of Trustees
2019 is off to an exciting start. As a reminder, there are several exciting things happening at Countryside Church Unitarian Universalist (CCUU), many of which are reported in the Sunday Times, weekly email updates, and this Focus newsletter.

The Board, as well as another group of CCUUers, recently began Beloved Conversations, a comprehensive program aimed at addressing our own white privilege so that we can work to dismantle systemic white supremacy in our congregations, communities, and the larger world. We look forward to growing as individuals and as a Board so that we can better lead CCUU in a way that is more welcoming and inclusive.

We also recently kicked off our annual pledge drive. This is the time of the year when we ask members and friends to reaffirm their commitment to Countryside Church with a financial contribution.

We have accomplished many great things in recent years, and as a congregation, we must continue to move forward. Our potential involves all of us and extends beyond our church walls. We are asking members, guests, and friends to PLEDGE TO THE POSSIBILITIES so that we can amplify our voice of love, compassion and justice in today’s increasingly divisive world.

Our possibilities are rooted in our mission and realized in our actions. Not only do we have a number of robust ministries with programming needs, but as mentioned the January Focus, we recently made the commitment to live our values by taking the first step to offer health benefits to our staff.

As such, it is more important than ever to show your support for the mission, vision, and goals of CCUU through your annual pledge. Additionally, we rely on annual pledges to meet our ongoing needs, plan for upcoming and necessary capital repairs and improvements, fulfill our programing potential, and better meet the needs of the changing world around us.

Each household’s pledge is an essential piece of the fabric that makes up the vibrant faith community that is Countryside Church Unitarian Universalist. As a reminder, we ask that all pledge forms be returned by February 10.

Thank you all for your continued support, financial and service.
Christine Organ
President of the Board of Trustees

ChocolateFest
This Sunday, after worship
Join us for ChocolateFest, a wonderful, tasty opportunity for fellowship. Please bring a chocolate finger food to share. Please try to avoid treats with nuts. You can place your chocolate offering on a table in Atherton Hall before going into worship.

Please also bring a donation for the Palatine Food Pantry. Their current needs are: breakfast cereal, coffee, 100% juice bottles or boxes, condiments, canned chicken, pasta sauce, baby wipes, disposable diapers (all sizes), liquid dish soap, laundry soap, cleaning products, personal products (shampoos, soap, feminine products), paper grocery bags.

ChocolateFest is sponsored by our membership committee. Contact Kay Gredell with any questions.

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

On Sunday, I talked about the false divide between heaven and earth. What I’d hoped to convey, what I hope I did convey is that, in the words of Tracy Chapman, “heaven’s here on earth.” Thus, everything we do, large or small, either helps or hinders our creation of ‘heaven’ on earth. Therefore, the ways in which we participate in congregational life – our pledges, volunteer time, time we spend learning, even time we spend truly connecting – each of those things is how we combine and magnify our energies to make a difference in the world, here, in this place which is solely dedicated to that purpose.

I was reminded of the corollary to that after the service in conversation with a member of the congregation. He reminded me that when we don’t participate in congregational life, don’t pledge, don’t volunteer, don’t grow, don’t learn, don’t connect with one another, this place doesn’t thrive and our purpose – our aspiration to take this world forward and shape it in the image of love, justice, compassion – does not thrive either.

Then as I was reading one of my favorite blogs, I was reminded that we, ourselves, can be divided. We need our divisions, because the different aspects of ourselves allow us to live in many ways in the world. Mary Oliver gave this example:

you want the pilot to be his regular and ordinary self. You want him to … undertake his work with no more than a calm pleasure. You hope he will not daydream. You want this flight to be ordinary, not extraordinary. So, too, with the surgeon, and the ambulance driver… Let all of them work, as ordinarily they do, in confident familiarity with whatever the work requires, and no more. Their ordinariness is the surety of the world. Their ordinariness makes the world go round.

We also need our creative selves - the part that imagines things not as they are but as they can be. Our creative selves allow us to imagine the world made fair, to imagine how we might get there, or how we can, together, make it so. Then there’s this other part that the Buddhists call the monkey mind. This part is easily distracted – by tv, the internet in all its time-devouring forms, by fear and anxiety. We have to know when to let the efficient parts of ourselves lead and when to let the creative parts of ourselves free, and we need to know how to quiet the monkey mind. What I love most about congregational life and the promise of religious practice at their best and most honorable is how they invite us over and again to still the monkey mind and to free the creative self in the service of goodness, truth, and wholeness. When religion has no integrity, it uses fear and stories that weaken the human spirit, but when it has honor and good faith, it calls to our own integrity and uses the noblest stories to calm the monkey mind, encourage the human spirit, and inspire creative thought and living.

I was grateful for the reminder of Mary Oliver’s reflections on calling forth our creativity. Writing of both the efficient self - the pilot, surgeon, etc. - and of the creative self, she wrote,

In creative work — … of all kinds — those who are the world’s … artists are not trying to help the world go around, but forward … something altogether different from the ordinary. Such work

does not refute the ordinary. It is, simply, something else. Its labor requires a different outlook — a different set of priorities.

Our theme for the month of February is trust. Trust allows us to quiet the monkey mind and trust that our creative selves can bring forth things of beauty and goodness. We need that trust because it allows, frees us to join our creative energies (as well as our time and resources) together, and therefore, be stronger and even more creative.

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/

Feb 10 Immanence & Absence
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 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/

Mar 3 Luminescence: The Light Within
Rev. Hilary Landau Krivchenia

**Daylight Saving Time begins 2 am Mar 10; move your clocks ahead 1 hour on Sat, Mar 9 when you go to bed **

Mar 10 Let the Mystery Be
Rev. Hilary L. Krivchenia
This is the Auction service offered by Rev. Krivchenia for the 2018 Time & Talent Auction and won by Karen & Bob Spielman.

Hospitality Needed
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—or go to www.ccuu.org and click on the ‘opportunities to serve’ graphic. Contact the church office with questions. Thank you, all!
Stewardship Drive ends February 10

We will celebrate the completion of the Stewardship Campaign in the midst of ChocolateFest on Feb. 10. Pledge forms are available on page 11 of this newsletter, in Atherton Hall, on the website: http://ccuu.org/stewardship/, or you can complete an online pledge form: https://ccuu.breezechms.com/form/1920PledgeForm

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

As I sit at my computer, thinking of some wise words to say, I come to the realization that the truth is always the best, even if it isn't all rosy and perfect. For I am anything but perfect – although I try to convince my family otherwise.

The UUniverse has given us another knock on our door – a nudge to say, "This isn't working as well as you thought". We get these little nudges in our lives – those subtle signs to try and steer us on a better path. And yet we often ignore them, often minimize them, until they get louder, and then we have to take notice!

If you've been reading these columns, you know that volunteers are the biggest factor in the success of our lifespan religious education program – for adults and young people alike. We depend on the generosity of 38 adults to lead programs for our young people – and that doesn't include the people who contribute their time and talents for Coming of Age, Family Ministry events, social action projects, etc. We have 25 more adults who help facilitate adult faith development programs or groups. This is a group of wonderful, dedicated people, to say the least.

By the time you read this, a group of teachers will have met with the parents of their classes to share their experiences and frustrations they are facing this year, some of which is simply not having enough hands on deck. I feel confident that they will brainstorm some good ideas on how to address their concerns and challenges, and that things will smooth out over the next few months. For me, the bigger question is, "What does the future hold for lifespan religious education?"

And so, I invite you into the conversation on the future of faith formation: the trends we're seeing, how different age groups operate within a community, what are families needing and looking for in a faith community, what do adults need to feel fed and grow spiritually, and how do we engage our young people so that they continue the faith and work of Unitarian Universalism. From here, we can then explore ideas and ways to better meet our needs as well as the people who have yet to walk through our doors. Look for these opportunities in announcements in the coming weeks.

The UUniverse has knocked on our door again. Let's open it, welcome it, and find new ways of keeping it at Countryside.

In faith, Kathy

Path to Belonging

Feb 10 & 17, 11:30 am—2:30 pm

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.

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.

Resistance and Transformation

An Adult Faith Development Series

This series is grounded in Unitarian Universalist social history, theology, and current events. This series is facilitated by various members of the congregation. 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://cceu.breezechms.com/Form/Resistance-Transformation. Dates & topics for the next few sessions:

- Feb 10: UU Response to Black Empowerment
- Feb 24: Sexuality Education as a Justice Movement
- Mar 10: UUism & the Women’s Movement

Young Adults Gathering

Feb 10 & 24, 6-7 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 kimberlyann417@gmail.com.

Journaling Circle

1st Thursdays, 10 am

Writing Together for Self-Discovery

Each gathering opens with a short meditation. We 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.

Book Circle: Feb 24, 6:15 pm

All are welcome to join the Book Circle to discuss The Death and Life of the Great Lakes by Dan Egan. Egan blends "the epic story of the lakes with an examination of the perils they face and the ways we can restore and preserve them for generations to come." We gather at 6:15, discussion begins at 6:30 pm.

Last Mondays Book Group: Feb 25

Join us at 7 pm in the Stokes Room to discuss A Prayer for Owen Meany by John Irving. We cancelled the January due to weather, so we'll discuss the whole book this month.

Atheist, Humanist, Agnostic

(AHA) Discussion

2nd Tuesdays, 7 pm

All are welcome to join us in classroom 4. On Feb 12, we will watch and discuss a 45 minute video of Dr. Randy Thompson a psychologist who discusses why people believe in God.
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 (ages listed are not firm; if you’re under 40 or over 59, you’re still welcome to join us!) generally meets 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

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: Feb 28, 10 am
Join us for our monthly program in Atherton Hall. Sheilah Sokeland presents this month’s program about a creative genius who has been deemed one of the ten most important scientists of all time. Many of us have barely any knowledge of him at all. Yet we all know about the man who tried to ruin him—Thomas Edison. Find out what we owe to the genius of Nikola Tesla. (But not the Tesla car.) Potluck lunch will follow; bring a dish to share or your own individual lunch. All are welcome; invite a friend!

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.

Social Action News
Monthly Fair Trade Sale: Feb 17
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 coffee, chocolate, and other products purchased, 20 cents goes to the UUSC’s Small Farmer Fund, https://www.uusc.org/uusc-fair-trade-project/

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, SocialAction-Chair@ccuu.org.

Help Provide PADS Meal on February 27
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. Stay tuned for notification of this month’s meal sign-up. Meal items need to be delivered to Presbyterian Church between 10 am and 4 pm on the day of the meal.

March 2, 7 pm
Join us as we turn Countryside Church into our very own nightclub/coffee house. Our 7th annual Music with a Mission benefits Faith in Place, Interfaith Community for Detained Immigrants, and Partners for Our Communities through the $10 cover charge, a 50/50 raffle, and other giving opportunities. Our theme this year is Music Around the World. We have a full slate of musical acts from every genre to entertain you.

Our nightclub wouldn’t be complete without decorations, tasty snacks, people to take tickets and handle the 50/50 raffle. Edie Reese is once again chairing those subcommittees: Sign up after services in Atherton Hall or contact her at edithreese07@gmail.com.
Full Week Faith

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...

We Can Trust the Light
by Soul Matters staff
May we remember that this flame we light has a source other than us - one we can't control, but can count on. And so, today, may we lean into trust enough to let go, to put the vigilance down, to pause and stop all the striving. We can trust in the light. May this be the faith we rekindled today.

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 fourth Source: Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves. Each week, try doing any of the following either alone, or with a friend, partner, or as a family:

- We often shy away from our Christian roots by avoiding "God" language and reading from the Bible. If this rings true for you, why is this so? What, in your past, has influenced you in this way? Is it possible to live the lessons that Jesus taught without believing in God? Share your thoughts with others, or write them in a journal.
- Every religion has some form of the Golden Rule – to love your neighbor as yourself. This month, do something for a neighbor anonymously. Shovel their sidewalk, leave a batch of cookies at the door, or a note of friendship.
- How familiar are you with Judaism? Read about their beliefs on God and loving our neighbors, or visit a synagogue and talk with the congregants or Rabbi.
- With Valentine’s Day this month, explore ways to show your love for the divine, or your love for the mystery and wonder of the universe. This could be through art, dance, prayer, meditation, or any way that feeds your soul.

Books/Stories for Children & Youth

- Somebody Loves You, Mr. Hatch by Eileen Spinelli
- Oh, Freedom! Kids Talk About the Civil Rights Movement with the People Who Made It Happen by Casey King

- Damon and Pythias – A Greek classic tale shared in Sunday School classrooms during the Beacon Series Era.
  - Found in "Long Ago and Many Lands" by Sophia Fahs (Chap. 39, pg. 191)
  - Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WQzvmjAs99s
- The Difference Between Heaven and Hell https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/toolbox/session1/heaven-hell

Books & Articles for adults:

- Article: Trust is Collapsing in America by Uri Friedman—https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2018/01/trust-trump-america-world/550964/

Soulful Home

Theme Exploration In Family Life

Soulful Home, Soul Matters new theme-based resource for families, is a monthly guide organized around eight distinct family "spaces" with ideas & resources to fill those spaces with UU theme-based exploration. This guide offers manageable activities and adventures that can be woven into the regular routines and spaces that families already share. It’s all about “Exploring the Sacred in Everyday Spaces!” Go to www.soulmatterssharingcircle.com/soulful-home.html for details about how your family can subscribe.

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.
This Month’s Ministry Theme: Trust

What does it mean to be a People of Trust?
In religious circles, “trust talk” most often revolves around having faith that life will look after us. For instance, our Christian friends sing hymns about God “watching over us” and keeping “an eye on the sparrow.” Our Jewish friends lift up the Exodus story to encourage faith that God will help us make our way even when things look bleak. Likewise, prayer practice for our Muslim friends is all about reminding oneself that you are in Allah’s safe hands. We UUs translate similar sentiments using the language of trusting “a Love that will not let us go.”

This call to trust Life’s support comes to us as a gift. After all, it’s all too easy to convince ourselves that life is a foe. So we need our faith communities to restore our faith that life is ultimately a friend. We need the reassurance. We need to know that when we fall we can count on being picked up.

But what about being pushed? Don’t we need to count on that too? A Love that won’t let us go is essential, but isn’t it just as important to have faith in a Love that won’t let us get too comfortable? Especially as we welcome in Black History Month, we certainly don’t want to forget about a Love that disturbs. We need a Love that promises to not let privilege remain hidden, and unsettles those who have it. A Love that tells those of us who are marginalized and tired, “I won’t let your pain be ignored.”

And just when that call to trust seems the one we all need to listen to, another voice adds itself to the mix. This one telling us to trust that it’s not all up to us. That sometimes it’s OK to rest. That doesn’t disturb but instead assures us that we can let go. That tells us to trust that we can - for a while - put the work down because others are ready to pick it up, knowing that we will be there to pick it up when rest calls to them.

So, friends, where does that leave us?
What is it?
Trust life to pick us up?
Trust life to push and poke us?
Trust that it’s OK to put the work down for a while?

It is all of them, of course. And more.
But maybe it’s mostly about trusting that we’ll know which call is right for us. Maybe it’s about having faith in ourselves and not letting anyone tell us what we need to trust.

There’s no one message this month after all. Everyone’s heart is wrestling with a loss of faith in its own way. The trust you need to repair is likely different than mine. What we both long for is safe space. Space to say how hard that work of repair is. Space to say how much it hurts to have to repair it in the first place.

So let’s remember that above all. And prove, this month, that we all can be trusted to offer each other that precious space.

Trust 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 has taught you the most about risking trust?
2. What have you trusted since childhood? What have you never lost faith in?
3. How have you changed your mind about trust?
4. Are you trusting or ignoring your gut right now?
5. What would happen if your trusted life enough to let go?
6. What would happen if you trusted that you are right where you are meant to be? That life is exactly what you need right now?
7. Have you ever been surprised that someone was willing to trust you?
8. When broken trust left you broken-hearted, what voice in your head or word from a friend helped you pick up the pieces?
9. Have you ever felt betrayed by your country?
10. What would it mean to trust people to be who they are rather than what you wish they were?
11. You’re worried about how this thing in front of you is going to work out. Might it be possible to trust that you will be fine either way?
12. What have you learned about trusting grief, rather than trying to make it go away?
13. Has it ever been hard to trust that your children will find their way?

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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I imagine trust as these invisible hands that we stretch out into the world looking for someone to hold on to as we walk into the unknown future.
~Alya Titarenko

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.

Church Year Highlights to Come

Mark Your Calendar

February ~ Theme: Trust
- Jan 27-Feb 10: Annual Stewardship Drive
- 10 ChocolateFest during Coffee hour
- 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 UU Regional Assembly in St Louis
- 7 Western Crescent Choral Fest at CCUU
- 12 Passover Seder
- 20 Easter
- 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

MidAmerica Regional Assembly

Register Now!
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

MidAmerica Winter Chalice Lighter Call

The goal of the Chalice Lighter program is to help fund specific growth projects of MidAmerica congregations by pooling donations from Unitarian Universalists across our region. The MidAmerica Regional Chalice Lighter Committee is pleased to announce the following congregations have been chosen for the Winter Chalice Lighter call:

- The Headwaters UU Fellowship in Bemidji, MN, is seeking funds to build a Peace Center that will serve as both a gathering space for the congregation and a means to connect with the community.
- The Michael Servetus Unitarian Society in Fridley, MN, has been actively exploring new buildings in hopes of moving out of their current home which they’ve outgrown. As part of the process, they would like to engage the services of Stewardship for Us (https://stewardshipforus.com) to help them make their intention to move to a new building a reality by providing consulting and capital campaign support.

Both congregations are UUA Honor Congregations, which means they have made their full requested financial contribution to both the UUA and MidAmerica. They also have made a commitment to increase the number of Chalice Lighters within their congregations.

To donate to this Chalice Lighter Call:
- go to https://www.uua.org/midamerica/giving and click on the Donate option of your choice; or
- Write a check to MidAmerica Region. Please note “Chalice Lighters Winter 2019 Call” in the memo line and send it to the MidAmerica Region, 2355 Fairview Avenue #312, Roseville, MN 55113.

Please donate by March 31, 2019. We thank you for your support of the growth of Unitarian Universalism in our Region! For more info, go to https://www.uua.org/midamerica/giving/chalice-lighters.

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.

Annual Giving Statements

2018 annual giving statements were emailed to donors on January 8; if we didn’t have an email address for you, they were mailed that day or the next. If you need this document for your taxes, please check your email (including spam/junk folder). If you can’t find it, you can download & print your own giving statement from Breeze using the CCUU Breeze user flyer available on the website: http://ccuu.org/ccuu-breeze-user-flyer/

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!

Wellness House Offerings at CCUU

Held here at CCUU the 1st Saturday of the month, an Hypnosis Group & Reiki Sessions are open to anyone in our geographical area who has or had cancer of any kind. The These are free, and registration is required. To register, email kmitchell@wellnesshouse.org or call 630-654-5197.
MidAmerica Young Adult SpringCon
TransCONtinenatal will be held March 29-31 at the Unitarian Church of Evanston in Evanston Illinois! As well as being a hub for worshipful connection and rejuve-
nation, the weekend will be themed around celebrating International Transgender Day of Visibility and focusing on how we can promote Trans rights and transformative justice. Folks interested in learning more can visit either of the links below:
- Facebook Event Page: https://www.facebook.com/events/1362761620531878/
- Registration Page: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAlpQLSc4gTzbYZkRzG1vEIQIImg6MmGMnxg8whdLjOB7QLSVrosMg/viewform?usp=sf_link
We UU YAs are a fun, engaging community, and these events are where the magic happens!

From Chicago Area UU Council (CAUUC) Winter Newsletter
President’s Corner—introducing Affinity Groups: ...we’ve been working on an Affinity Group strategy which is a “work in progress.” That said, we have launched a number of experiments that you can participate in and give feedback about to help us fine tune our efforts. Read more at https://uuchicagoarea.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/CAUUC-2019-01-Newsletter.pdf
The newsletter also includes volunteer opportunities, calendar of upcoming events, job postings, and highlights from the CAUUC Fall Conference (held here at CCUU).
Find the full newsletter at https://uuchicagoarea.org

UU-United Nations Intergenerational Spring Seminar: Apr 11-13
Registration Ends Feb 25
The UU United Nations Office is excited to host this year’s Seminar in NYC 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!

UU Buddhist Fellowship Convocation
Apr 25-28, 2019
Making the Invisible, Visible: A Multimedia Exploration of Race & Racism in the US through a Buddhist Lens will be led by Dr. Jan Willis, Professor Emerita of Religion at Wesleyan University and now Visiting Professor of Religion at Agnes Scott College. Sign up soon, as this is likely to fill up considering the timeliness of the topic. Go to http://uubf.org/wp/uubf-convocation-2019/ for more info and to register.

Camp UniStar Needs Staff
Camp UniStar is looking for 2019 summer staff to spend the summer where memories are made and com-
munity is cherished. Camp UniStar is a UU family camp located on an island in beautiful northern Minnesota. Camp UniStar offers competitive pay and lifeguard train-
ing reimbursement. Room and board included. Applications open at http://www.campunistar.org/jobs

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, androgynous, 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.com
- Great Plains Zen Center (GPZC) sits meditation on Sundays at 7 pm and offers monthly Intro to Zen work-
shops. For more info about GPZC’s programs, refer to “Other Religious Voices” bulletin board across from the church office or go to www.greatpla INSZEN.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/membership. Dress code is busi-
ness casual. For more info, contact JSC founder Rose-
mary Monahan, Rmonahan@improive-ization.com.
- Career Communicators is a Toastmasters Interna-
tional 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 Subur-
bs 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 mem-
ber 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
February-March Meetings & Events

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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.

Feb 10
9 am Open Forum
10 am Worship & Relig.Educ.
11 am ChocolateFest
11:15 am Children’s Choir
11:30 am Path to Community
11:30 am Green Sanctuary Mtg
11:30 am COA Mtg (youth-mentors)
11:30 am Buddhist Study Grp 11:40 am Resistance & Transformation 6:00pm Young Adults Group

11
7 pm Outreach Steering Council Meeting
12
7 pm Atheist-Humanist-Agnostic Discussion
13
10 am Great Books Group 7 pm Finance Ctte Mtg
14
7 pm Soul Connections Thurs grp 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal
15
7 pm Soul Connections Fri grps

%Midwest UU Youth Camp Reunion @CCUU

Feb 17
9 am Open Forum
10 am Worship & Relig.Educ.
11:15 am Children’s Choir
11:20 am 20-30 Somethings
11:30 am Path to Community
18
7 pm Stoking Justice
19
7 pm Soul Connections Tues grp
20
7 pm Board of Trustees Mtg
21
6 pm Yoga 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal
22

23
9:30 am Feminine Divine Women’s Group Circle Suppers

Feb 24
9 am Open Forum
10 am Worship & Relig.Educ.
11 am Fellowship
11:15 am Children’s Choir 11:30 am Social Action Mtg
11:40 am Resistance & Transformation 6:00pm Young Adults Group 6:15pm Book Circle

25
10 am Focus deadline 7 pm Stoking Justice 7 pm Last Mondays Book Discussion
26

27
10 am Great Books Grp 10 am-4 pm PADS Meal Delivery
28
10 am Transitions NO Choir Rehearsal
Mar 1

Mar 3
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
4
7 pm Stoking Justice
5
6 Focus publication 7 pm Current Issues Read with the Minister
7
10 am Journaling Circle 6 pm Yoga 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal
8
10 am Memoir Makers

Mar 10
*Daylight Saving Begins*
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 Mtg
11:30 am COA Mtg (youth-mentors)
11:30 am Buddhist Study Grp
11:40 am Resistance & Transformation
11
7 pm Stoking Justice
12
7 pm Atheist-Humanist-Agnostic Discussion
13
10 am Great Books Group 7 pm Finance Ctte Mtg
14
7 pm Soul Connections Thurs grp 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal
15
7 pm Soul Connections Fri grps
16
Circle Suppers

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Mar 2
10 am Wellness House Hypnosis Group & Reiki Sessions
7 pm Music with a Mission
2019-20 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL and COMMITMENT
(July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020)

Pledge for the Possibilities
We Are CCUU. Living Our Values. Building A Better World.

NAME(s) ________________________________
Address ________________________________
Email ________________________________ Phone # ________________

CCUU Congregational Aspirations of Membership
Attend Sunday Services and congregational meetings
Seek out and share opportunities for spiritual, ethical and meaningful growth
Engage in congregational projects, programs or events that reach beyond the church
Engage in congregational projects, programs or events that support the life of the church
Strive to give 3-5% of my income to support the mission of the church
Share with others outside the church the value of my membership at Countryside Church

Please let us know your intention for the 2019-20 fiscal year (July 1 – June 30):

___ Yes, I/We re-affirm my/our membership and support Countryside Church Unitarian Universalist with a 2019-20 total pledge of $_____________.

___ I am/We are not member(s) & would like to support CCUU with a total 2019-20 pledge of $______.

My/our pledge will be paid ___ weekly ___ monthly ___ quarterly ___ other (please specify)______________

___ I/We remain committed members of Countryside Church Unitarian Universalist, but request an exemption of our pledge for the 2019-20 fiscal year. We ask that those requesting an exemption have a conversation with Rev. Hilary so we can be sure that we are supporting you in every way possible.

___ I/We are no longer interested in being involved at Countryside Church Unitarian Universalist.
Please remove me/us from your membership rolls.

Signature(s) ________________________________

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
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<td>$200,000</td>
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Aspirational Giving Guide
We ask every household to strive to pledge 3-5% of income to support the church. Give until it feels good, but not so that it hurts. Start where you are able based on your real resources of time, talent, and treasure.

"Countryside Express" Sustained Giving through electronic funds transfer:

___ I/We are already part of Countryside Express and wish to continue.
   If only your contribution amount has changed, a new authorization form is NOT needed. If banking or account information has changed, please complete a new Authorization Agreement (on reverse).

___ I/We would like to join Countryside Express: _____ immediately _____ starting July 1
## 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
Countrywide 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
- Feb 25 (publ. Mar 6)
- Mar 25 (publ. Apr 3)
- Apr 22 (publ. May 1)

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