Next Congregational Potluck: March 17
Mark your calendar & start planning what dish you will bring to share! If you or your group/committee would be interested in hosting this potluck, sign up online: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a044ea4a72fa13-monthly. If you are interested in knowing what is involved in hosting a potluck, you can download guidelines here: http://ccuu.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Potluck-Hosting-Guidelines.pdf. If you have any questions, contact the church office.

From Your Board of Trustees
The past month has been a busy and invigorating one at Countryside Church. Again this year, we set an ambitious goal of completing our annual pledge drive in just three weeks, and the congregation came through. If you have returned your pledge, thank you! If you have not yet submitted your pledge for the 2019-20 church year, please do so as soon as possible. Everyone, and every contribution, helps make Countryside the wonderful place that it is – and we rely on each and every one of you in order to accomplish all that we hope and need in the upcoming year.

Additionally, last month, seven people attended the Path To Community Classes, with 5 of those people immediately joining – a strong testament to our Kinship Ministry, Tom MacTavish and the membership efforts, and the overall welcoming and supportive presence of those who are part of the CCUU community. What’s more, each week, we continue to see new faces at the service and coffee hour. Your contributions of time, talent and treasure are the lifeblood of this community, and are truly valued.

We recently renewed our mortgage and due to our extraordinary generosity with the Mortgage Paydown Campaign, we were able to paydown the mortgage principal amount by almost $94,000. Our monthly mortgage payments will now be almost $600 less per month, even after taking into account the increase in interest rates under the terms of our new mortgage. Had we not paid down that principal, our annual mortgage payments would have increased by approximately $6,000 because of the higher interest rate.

Town Hall Meeting: April 14
The Board will hold a Town Hall meeting on Sunday, April 14 after the service to discuss in more detail the stewardship drive, upcoming plans, and what to expect at the Congregational Annual Meeting, which will be held on May 19. Please mark your calendar so you don’t miss it!

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please don’t hesitate to contact me at prez@ccuu.org.
Christine Organ
President of the Board of Trustees

Selfie Scavenger Hunt ~ March 9, 1:30 pm
Groups will be asked to locate places in and around the church & community and take a ‘selfie’ picture of it. If you would like some help to be a part of a larger team, let us know and we can put you in touch with another group. Each group will need a car and a phone (not to be used while driving!). Pizza will be served afterwards. Sign up here for this fun event sponsored by Family Ministry!

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Intro to CCUU
Newcomers are invited to attend a brief orientation to Unitarian Universalism & our church. Offered the 1st Sunday of each month after the worship service.
**Minister’s Muse**

Countryside Church UU (CCUU) is a robust, warm congregation. With colleagues, I love to talk about what we’re accomplishing, how we’re evolving. We’re just wrapping up what I hope will be a generous, positive stewardship season that will enable us to serve with strength, within and beyond our walls. Often, we underplay the other forms that stewardship takes— not only financial, but time, care, and talent.

As a kid who grew up serving and as an adult who continues to serve in volunteer organizations, I’ve experienced the benefits of volunteering: I’ve made good friends, learned, had joyful times, and met core need for a sense of purpose. My parents modeled a stunning level of volunteerism. I tagged along with my mother to many meetings. Maybe that sounds like a drag — I didn’t have Nintendo, a smart phone, or iPad, but, to me, it was simply what you did if you hoped for a better world. I saw that my parents developed friendships and that the values they taught me at home were things they were willing to work for in the world.

What I didn’t know, as a kid, was how important their volunteering was and how important volunteerism was in the history of this country. When Alexis de Tocqueville visited the US in the 19th century, he remarked on how Americans chose to gather in all sorts of voluntary associations — for play, service, faith, friendship. Religious institutions, like CCUU, rely on volunteers. In much the same way that we rely upon pledges of financial support from both members and friends, we can’t meet the needs, fulfill the vision, build the community, or enrich the lives of all who come here without volunteerism to a prodigious degree.

Much research has demonstrated that the degree to which people participate and volunteer in groups to which they belong corresponds almost precisely to the degree to which they derive satisfaction, a sense of purpose, kinship, investment, and happiness from those organizations.

Last year, as my spouse was finishing up an MS in Environmental Sciences, he took a course on environmental psychology from Dr. Ming Kuo, at U of IL Urbana-Champaign. Dr. Ming Kuo drew on research into happiness, and she explained that four key pillars of happiness are wealth, diet, fast cars, and power. No, no… Actually, the research showed that the key pillars of happiness are belonging, mastery, purpose, and self-determination (some add transcendence). Interesting. What struck me was that’s exactly the purpose of our faith community and what volunteering here is intended to cultivate. We’re here to fashion a people and community to offer a path to belonging, new masteries and competencies, a faith of the free, and a sense of purpose to transform lives in the present and for the future.

And, frankly, we can’t do it without you. You’re a vital part of this community, you’re a trove of insights and skills, always growing, and seeking depth in life.

Not everyone grows up in a family with a strong sense of service to the common good or a history of engagement in a faith community. Not everyone has yet discovered the gift of engagement. It’s vital to share our stories, to teach one another and our children. So, we’re introducing, for a short time and periodically, a section of the worship service called “Worshipping in Time,” which will give us a chance to learn from one another.

**Worship Attendance Pads**

Those who were in worship on March 3 heard that we are trying something new—new to us but not new to many congregations—attendance pads (we’re calling ours ‘kinship pads’) in worship. You will find a black binder at the end of the row with a Kinship Pad in it. There are places to indicate if you want a contact from lay ministry or pastoral care, if you are a visitor, if you want more information. We ask that you please complete & pass this during the offering.

We are hoping this will help us to know better when people may be missing so we can reach out in support and to find out when people who are present need pastoral care and support. Of course, this is not compulsory nor intended to make anyone feel like they are at school or will get a poor mark if absent— quite the opposite. It is a way to better care for the people who are among us — whether present or absent, to keep contact information up to date, to discover how many visitors we have in a year, and to understand our patterns of engagement. Starting this month, the attendance pads will be found under the end seats in the sanctuary. Please write in your information and help us all to strengthen the bonds of kinship.

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**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://ccuu.breezechms.com/form/Resistance-Transformation](https://ccuu.breezechms.com/form/Resistance-Transformation). Dates & topics for the upcoming sessions:

- Mar 10: UUism & the Women’s Movement
- Mar 24: Beyond Binaries, LGBTQ and Transgender Issues
- Mar 31: Civil Rights in the UU Context
- Apr 14: Ecological Awareness, Pollution, and Climate Change as Justice Issues
- Apr 28: Immigration and Xenophobia
- May 12: What’s Next?

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**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](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!
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/

*Daylight Saving Time begins 2 am Mar 10; clocks ‘spring’ ahead 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.
Young people begin in the service with their families and will then participate in Faith in Action service learning.

Mar 17  Benedictus Libris—Blessing of the Books  Rev. Hilary L. Krivchenia
See more info below…
Share the Plate: Half the plate cash will be donated to The Build Team, a local organization that helps families in financial need with essential home repairs. www.thebuildteam.org

Mar 24  Edge States  Rev. Hilary L. Krivchenia
Joining Sunday: We will welcome new members during the service.

Mar 31  A Search for the Ultimate Value  Rem Stokes
Share the Plate: Half the plate cash will be donated to the Palatine Township Senior Citizens Council, offering social, nutrition, lifelong learning, health, recreation, financial and supportive services to those age 50 and better in the Palatine Township area.

Apr 7  Getting to Know Our Service Partners: Faith in Place  Dan Huntsha
This is the last in our series of services about our Service Partners.

Apr 14  All-Church Earth Day Service  Rev. Hilary L. Krivchenia
This is an All-Church Service; young people attend the entire service with their families.
We will do Child Dedication during this service; if you would like to be included, contact Rev. Hilary or Kathy Underwood by April 7.
Share the Plate: Citizens for Conservation, a local volunteer organization whose mission is to protect, educate, and restore natural areas. www.CitizensForConservation.org

Blessing of the Books ~ March 17
Books are vital to our well-being, and on March 17, we’re going to have a special service – almost like a holiday – to celebrate books. People of all ages are invited to bring in a couple of their own special books, and during the service, we will bless our books.

All books are welcome, as long as they uphold and do not violate the spirit of our covenant or our Unitarian Universalist principles. Please be sure to mark your books clearly, so you don’t lose them or get them mixed up with someone else’s. Do bring your books, and let us celebrate them. Benedictus Libris!

Western Crescent ChoralFest
April 7, 4 pm ~ at Countryside UU
Our own Choir, in partnership with the Outreach Steering Committee, is very excited to host the 8th Annual Western Crescent Choral Festival on April 7 here in our beautiful Sanctuary (see flyer on p.11). We are expecting approximately 250 choir members and music lovers to attend. There will be no admission fee, and a free will offering will benefit our Outreach Service Partners (POC, ICDI, FIP). We hope you and your friends & family will be among the attendees!
We also need your help to make this a very special event. Some of the ways in which you might help:
• Donate a cargo van or pick-up truck, and a few volunteers to pick up & return risers from/to the UU Church of Elgin, and to set up & take down the risers before/after the concert.
• Distribute event flyers in the Palatine area
• Create: Directional signs inside & outside the church
• Greet: People as they arrive and direct choir members to their practice rooms.
• Usher and hand out info about our service partners
• Direct Traffic: If our parking lot fills up, we will need to direct people to other lots. Reflective vests provided.
• Set up, clean up
Please sign up after the worship this Sunday, or contact Mike Graves, mgraves@ameritech.net or 847-726-7559.

Do you enjoy singing?
Then perhaps you would enjoy singing with our choir. For more info, contact Allison 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.
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.
From Our Interim Director of Lifespan Religious Education (DLRE)

As I write this, it is twelve degrees out with 40 mph winds, and yet March will be here in a few days with the promise of more sunlight and warmer weather. And until spring officially arrives, there is plenty to do and get involved in!

**Six Word Stories**

Using our theme of Journey, you are invited to participate in the Six Word Journey effort. You may be familiar with the story behind this: Ernest Hemmingway took a bet to write a novel in six words. His response: “For sale: Baby shoes, never worn.” And so, you are invited to share a six-word story about your journey. This could be a part of your life journey – whether work, faith, spiritual, or family. Or perhaps a physical journey – recovery from an injury or illness, a significant trip or pilgrimage you took, or the birth of a baby. There will be a table in Atherton Hall with pieces of paper to write your Six Word Journey on until March 17. They will then be displayed as a labyrinth on the bulletin board by the classrooms for everyone to read. You can learn more about the Six Word Project at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jR1V7ixsOu0

**RE Parent Orientation: March 17**

On March 17 after worship, parents are encouraged to attend the RE Orientation Event. This is an opportunity for parents of children and youth to hear what has been happening in religious education classes, trends that Countryside and our sister congregations are experiencing, and share ideas on how to increase the vibrancy of our program. And since there will be a potluck that day, you can bring your plate down to room 1 and enjoy a delicious lunch while we gather.

**Collection for Journeys the Road Home**

Our Coming of Age youth will kick off their social action project to benefit Journeys, one of our service partners. On March 10, we will have a Faith in Action day, where the young people will make signs for the project and learn more about homelessness and the program at Journeys. See additional info below...

**Pancake Brunch Fundraiser: April 14**

Looking a bit further ahead, there will be a pancake brunch on April 14, hosted by our Coming of Age youth to raise funds for their UU pilgrimage this summer.

In faith,

Kathy

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**Current Issues Read with the Minister**

**1st Wednesdays, 7 pm**

Join us on March 6 in classroom 1 for further discussion of *White Fragility* by Robin DiAngelo. Our April, May, and June discussions will be on *American Immanence* by Michael S. Hogue. Registration for Read with the Minister is not required, but those who register may receive resources related to the discussion. Online registration: [https://ccuu.breezechms.com/form/ReadWithMinister](https://ccuu.breezechms.com/form/ReadWithMinister)

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**Donation Drive for Journeys/PAIDS**

**March 10 thru March 24**

The Coming of Age group is holding this drive for Journeys The Road Home, which provides shelter, services, & housing to those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless in suburban Cook County. We are collecting:

- rain gear: umbrellas, boots, ponchos, etc.
- travel-size toiletries
- grab-and-go snacks.

We will collect items in Atherton Hall after church. Alternatively, donated items can be placed in the designated boxes in the coat closet and classroom wing.

**Journaling Circle ~ 1st Thursdays, 10am**

**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.

**Buddhist Study Group ~ 2nd Sundays**

The Buddhist Study Group meets the 2nd Sunday of the month. On March 11, we will meet at 11:45 am to discuss the second chapter of Robert Wright’s book *Why Buddhism is True*. All are welcome! No reading required!

**Book Circle: April 14**

All are welcome to join the Book Circle to discuss *The Invention of Nature: Alexander Von Humbold's New World* by Andrea Wulf. Humboldt invented the concept of the interconnected web of life, and in 1800 he was the first scientist to talk about human-induced climate change. He influenced Darwin, Jefferson, Thoreau, Wordsworth, and others. We gather at 6:15, discussion begins at 6:30 pm.—please join us!

**Last Mondays Book Group: March 25**

Join us at 7 pm in the Stokes Room to discuss *Becoming* by Michelle Obama.

**Atheist, Humanist, Agnostic (AHA) Discussion ~ 2nd Tuesdays, 7 pm**

All are welcome to join us in classroom 4. Our February meeting was cancelled due to weather, so on March 12, we will watch and discuss a 45 minute video of Dr. Randy Thompson a psychologist who discusses why people believe in God.
Church Year Highlights to Come
Mark Your Calendar

March ~ Theme: Journey
17 Congregational Potluck after worship

April ~ Theme: Wholeness
5-7 MidAmerica UU Regional Assembly in St Louis
7 Western Choral Fest at CCUU
12 Passover Seder (see p.8 for info)
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

Social Action News
Monthly Fair Trade Sale: Mar 10 & April 7
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 UU Service Committee’s Small Farmer Fund, https://www.uuscc.com/uuscc-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 March 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. Sign up online if you can provide part of the meal: https://www.signuppigenius.com/go/70a044ea4a72fa13-march2. Meal items need to be delivered to Presbyterian Church between 10 am and 4 pm on the day of the meal.

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: March 28, 10 am
Join us for our monthly program in Atherton Hall; this month’s program will be presented by Rem Stokes on Organized Complexity and Emergence; organized complexity is a recently understood type of structure for populations that solve problems without a leader using pattern recognition and feedback and resulting in pattern emergence. Potluck lunch will follow; bring a dish to share or your own individual lunch. All are welcome; invite a friend!

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.

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 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 using the CCUU Breeze user flyer available on the website: http://ccuu.org/ccuu-breeze-user-flyer/

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.

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 info and/or to join the Forum email list, email vidaxel@axeldesigns.com. Upcoming topics:
- Mar 10: we will discuss two recent, current events topics—1) should the US really go through with its plan to withdraw from the intermediate-range nuclear forces treaty on Aug 1; 2) Bernie’s health care plan
- Mar 17: Nutritional Approaches, including the Ketogenic Diet
- Mar 24: Government Shutdowns & the U.S. Constitution
- Mar 31: How effective is foreign aid?
- Apr 7: a once-per-month discussion of two recent, current events topics. Deadline to suggest topic 1: Mar 24; deadline to suggest topic 2: Apr 3. Please send your suggestions to Vid at the email above.
This Month’s Ministry Theme: Journey

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...

In Honor of First Steps
by Soul Matters staff
We light this chalice in honor of first steps,
For beginning even when the path ahead is unclear
For the courage it takes to trust
that the way will reveal itself
that light will come to clarify our vision
that friends will be by our side.

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: Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life. Each week try doing any of the following either alone, or with a friend, partner, or as a family:

- Albert Schweitzer wrote: The path of awakening is not about becoming who you are. Rather it is about unbecoming who you are not. Journal or share with others on whether or not this rings true for you.
- Go on a journey – of any length or distance and any means of travel. What do you learn about yourself? Do you notice the little things along the way? Do you tend to seek out people along the way or go it alone? Did anything change your view of the world?
- Is there another religion that sparks your curiosity? Or one that resonates with you? Explore the theme of journey as it connects to another religion. How is it similar or different from Unitarian Universalism? Journal or share your thoughts.
- Create a piece of art that expresses what journey means to you. Does the end product matter more than the process it took to create it? Did your feelings change on your journey to creating it?
- Map your spiritual journey – what are the significant moments in your life that impacted your views of yourself, the world, or your faith? What led you to Unitarian Universalism? Create a map illustrating your journey so far. Where do you think it is leading you?

Books/Stories for Children & Youth
- Peaceful Piggy Meditation by Kerry Lee MacLean
- Anh's Anger by Gail Silver
- Journey, Quest, Return (Aaron Becker's Wordless Trilogy) by Aaron Becker
- Me On The Map (Rise and Shine) by National Geographic Learning
- The Journey of the Noble Gnarble (online story) by Daniel Errico

(continued…)

- The Fall of Freddie the Leaf: A Story of Life for All Ages by Leo Buscaglia
- The Hero’s Journey - Joseph Campbell

Books for Older Youth
- Furthermore by Tahereh Mafi
- The Iliad (Marvel Illustrated) by Roy Thomas
- The Odyssey (Marvel Illustrated) by Roy Thomas

Movies
- Fly Away Home (PG)
- Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy (PG)
- The Fountain (PG-13)

Movies about the Hero’s Journey:
- Star Wars
- The Matrix
- Spiderman
- Harry Potter
- Lion King
- Lord of The Rings

For Parents
UU Family Rituals for other times on the Journey of Life
https://www.uuworld.org/articles/creating-rituals-with-for-children

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.

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: April-Wholeness, May-Curiosity, June-Beauty.
What does it mean to be a People of Journey?

We UUs love to tell our journey stories. And hear each other’s journey stories. Whereas other religions have newcomers stand up and confess their fallen ways or declare a commitment to one way, we invite each other to talk about how our way is like no other.

It’s a curious thing when you think about it. We welcome people to our fold not by asking them to commit to thinking exactly as the group does, but by having them declare how their journey is not like anybody else in the group. It’s about space not similarity. We bind ourselves to each other not by sharing the same journey but by offering each other the room to discover the unique journey that fits us. It’s about making room for people to write their own stories.

Or maybe it’s about making room for people to re-write their stories.

It’s become popular in our society to talk about spiritual journeys as a process of living into your full or true self. That’s a helpful frame. And yet there’s something deep within UUism that resists it. Historically, we’ve been the people that struggled not so much to find ourselves but to untangle ourselves from the religious identities we were given. Our spiritual journeys did not begin with a blank slate; they began with the hunger to wipe the slate clean and begin anew.

So we have this important awareness that spiritual journeys are not simply about finding your true self, but also about untangling from your old self. We agree with Albert Schweitzer who wrote, “The path of awakening is not about becoming who you are. Rather it is about unbecoming who you are not.”

Which means we are also sensitive to the fact that most spiritual journeys begin with a leaving, a separation, a decision to walk away. We know that the first step is often laced with mourning and isolation. We know that “unbecoming” is not easy work.

We also know that it isn’t a one-time thing. We find ourselves routinely tangled up in all kinds of identities and journeys that aren’t truly ours. “Unbecoming who you are not” is a journey we walk every day.

So what does all this mean for us this month? Well, first, it’s an important reminder that we’re not just here to help each other hold steady and persevere on our current paths; often our primary gift is to help each other find the exit ramps.

It also means remembering that being a people of journey involves tenderness. We are here not just to make room for each other’s unique stories; we are also here to make room for each other’s pain. Again, “unbecoming who you are not” involves bravely walking away, isolation and mourning. And so, if we are going to complete our journeys of unbecoming and becoming anew, we’re definitely going to need pitstops of kindness and tenderness along the way.

Journey 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?


2. What friend has walked your journey with you the longest? How would you articulate the unique gift of long friendships?

3. What is the most important thing you’ve told your kids to pack for their journey?

4. Whose journey do you wish wasn’t cut short? Who do you wish was still on the road with you? Have you figured out what treasures or clues they’ve left behind?

5. Could the story of your journey so far be told as an adventure story?

6. What is the most important thing you’ve learned about getting lost?

7. Whose journey needs your help? Is there someone that needs you to notice that they can’t quite make their next step alone?

8. Do you believe in happy endings?

9. Are you close or far from home?

10. What if someone asked you “Where are you going?” instead of “Where are you from?”

11. Do you dwell on everything that you have lost? Or focus on everything that you have yet to find?

12. Are you sure your path is one of becoming who you really are. Or could it be about unbecoming who you are not?

13. What if the obstacles in front of us aren’t in the way of our lives, but instead are our lives?

14. How are you called to make others’ journeys possible?

15. What has been your favorite twist or turn on the road? 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

Get daily inspiration on the monthly theme by liking the Soul Matters Facebook inspiration Page: https://www.facebook.com/soullatterssharingcircle/

Find musical inspiration on each theme by following the monthly Spotify Lists: https://www.soullatterssharingcircle.com/spotify-lists.html

Find support for bringing the monthly themes home and into your family life with Soulful Home: A Guide for Families: https://www.soullatterssharingcircle.com/soulful-home.html

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**Don’t Miss the Passover Seder!**

Come to the annual Countryside Passover Seder. This is one of our major all-church events of the year. It will be held on Friday, April 12, starting at 6:00 PM. We will take reservations and donations after services, March 24 through April 7. Recommended donations are: $10 per adult, $5 per child or $30 per family. You are asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share that follows basic Jewish tradition (described below).

*What is a Passover Seder?*

It’s a ritual banquet which includes a retelling of the Exodus. ‘Seder’ refers to the order of the ritual. ‘Passover’ refers to the night that the angels of death passed over Jewish homes just before the Israelites won their freedom, fled after parting the Red Sea, and escaped from Egypt. The evening service includes wine (or grape juice) and special foods. There are readings in English and Hebrew and we even sing songs. Anyone who is willing can read. Once the ‘service’ portion is over, a meal is shared by those attending and then another short service follows to end the Seder. While the Seder takes a while, it is a family friendly event and is most often conducted in homes with children taking part in the reading or sharing of the story.

*Why do Unitarian Universalists celebrate the Passover Seder?*

As UUs we recognize, respect, and turn for wisdom to the traditions of other religions – like Christmas and Ramadan. In this case we are celebrating a sacred Jewish tradition. The main messages of the traditional Jewish Passover Seder are freedom and gratitude. We focus on these messages in our version of the Seder while retaining much of the traditions. *Even today, we need to be grateful for our freedoms and continue to protect them. What will it be like?*

You’ll arrive by 6:00 PM and bring a dish to share. That dish should meet general Seder guidelines – no pork, dairy, bread, or yeast. We’ll then begin our service by following a book called the Haggadah which tells the story of the escape from Egypt. The word – Haggadah – means ‘the telling’. Our Haggadah includes an interesting Unitarian Universalist story as well. We’ll have some coloring to help occupy the children, but everyone is included in the evening. Since we will not eat for almost an hour, you might give your kids a small snack beforehand (though getting hungry is part of the tradition for many folks). During the service we share food from the Seder plate which includes matzo, hard-boiled eggs and oranges. Bring the whole family and your friends.

At a break in the Seder, we’ll serve vegetarian matzo ball soup and share a meal. Baked chicken will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to complete the meal (see guidelines above).

Once the meal is over, we’ll have a brief service to complete the Seder. There will be goodie bags for the kids and the exciting search for the Afikomen. If you don’t know what that is – join in and find out!

**For Questions or to make reservations**

Contact Carol Bobbe cabobbe@comcast.net or 224-636-3330.

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**Go to UUA General Assembly!**

*June 19-23 in Spokane WA ~ Registration Open*

General Assembly is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association. Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend; congregations must certify annually to send voting delegates.

*The Power of We*

What do we want Unitarian Universalism to be? It is a time when we are asking big questions in our faith, and GA 2019 will focus on digging into those questions together. It is a critical chance for congregational leaders and passionate UUs to set new goals and aspirations for our religious community. Help begin to reshape our Association and our congregations in new and powerful ways.

This year’s theme is about collective power. “The Power of We,” as well as the possibility, the purpose, the struggle and the joy of what it means to be together in faithful community. In the past two years, UUism has re-committed to the work of liberation inside and outside our faith community. The antidote to a time of dangerous de-humanization is a love that connects us to our deeper humanity. Come to Spokane to experience what our shared faith can become when we embrace the Power of We.

GA Registration and the GA Housing Reservation System opened March 1 at [www.uua.org/ga](http://www.uua.org/ga)

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**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)

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**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 UUs across our region. The MidAmerica Regional Chalice Lighter Committee has announced the two congregations which have been chosen for the Winter Chalice Lighter call. Find out more at [https://www.uua.org/midamerica/giving/chalice-lighters](https://www.uua.org/midamerica/giving/chalice-lighters).

Donations for this Chalice Lighter call are due by Mar 31.

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**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
TransCONtental 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 rejuvenation, 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/1FAlpQLSc4qTzbYZkRzG1vEIQIlmg6MmGMnxg8whdLIQB7QLSVrosMg/viewform?usp=sf_link

We UU YAs are a fun, engaging community, and these events are where the magic happens!

UU Summer Camp: June 30-July 6
Consider joining fellow UUs this summer at the annual Midwest Unitarian Universalist Summer Assembly (MUUSA). The weeklong camp offers many workshops and activities for families, couples, and singles of all ages. This year, Reverend Karen Mooney and Reverend Pam Rumancik will lead the daily morning celebration service on this year’s theme, The Story of Us.

Come gather in the beautiful forests and rolling hills of the Missouri Ozarks at YMCA Trout Lodge, where you can connect with old friends, make new ones, and participate in a wide variety of activities. Get all the details at muusa.org—or see the flyer on the “Our Denomination” bulletin board across from the church office.

Summer Camps & Weekends for Single Adults
Join Adult Midwest UU Singles Enrichment (AMUUSE) for a vacation that is more than just a vacation. AMUUSE offers affordable camps with music & dancing, camp shows, personal growth, conversations, outdoor activities, making new friends—and fun!—March 15-16: Camp Edwards Weekend, E.Troy, WI
- May 3-5: Tower Hill Spring Weekend, Sawyer MI
- July 14-20: Camp Gatherings, Tustin MI
- Aug 11-17: Camp High Spirits, Sawyer MI
- Nov 8-10: Tower Hill Fall Weekend, Sawyer MI

Visit www.AMUUSE.org for more information & to register.

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. 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 invite you to our 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 WhaleCoastAK.org

Camp UniStar Needs Staff
Camp UniStar is looking for 2019 summer staff to spend the summer where memories are made and community is cherished. Camp UniStar is a UU family camp located on an island in beautiful northern Minnesota. Camp UniStar offers competitive pay and lifeguard training 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.

- 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.
- Transcend is a program of Youth Outreach 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.
- Citizens’ Climate Lobby, Chicago Northwest Suburbs Chapter meets here 2nd Saturdays. For info, go to https://citizensclimatelobby.org/chapters/IL_Chicago_Northwest_Suburbs/
- 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
- 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.
- AA: Men’s Meeting: Saturdays, 9-10 am; Women’s Meeting: Fridays, 7:30 pm
- Job Search Circle (JSC) meets at Atherton Hall on Wednesdays, 9-11am. $5/Meeting. Dress code is business casual. For more info, contact JSC founder Rosemary 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.
- 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 form the church office or go to http://www.sainthubert.org/ministries/job.html
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://cceu.org/calendar/](http://cceu.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.

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Western Crescent Choir Festival
Sunday April 7, 2019 — 4:00 pm
Countryside Church Unitarian Universalist
1025 N. Smith Rd, Palatine

Welcome Spring with this free* concert presented by the choirs of
♦ Unitarian Universalist Church of Joliet
♦ Unitarian Universalist Society of Geneva
♦ Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin
♦ Prairie Circle Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Grayslake
♦ Tree of Life Unitarian Universalist Congregation, McHenry
♦ Countryside Unitarian Universalist Church, Palatine
Each choir will showcase its unique talents and then...
The grand finale—over 100 voices raised in glorious song!

*There will be no admission charge.
A free will offering will benefit Faith in Place, Partners for Our Communities (POC), and Interfaith Community for Detained Immigrants (ICDI).
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 Universalism within and beyond our community. • 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
Mar 25 (publ. Apr 3) Apr 22 (publ. May 1) May 28 (publ.June 5)
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.

Follow us on Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/CountrysideChurchUU