From Your Board President
This month’s Focus column is the text from a video message I recorded on March 25 for the congregation on behalf of the Board. That video message, along with a video message from UUA President Rev. Susan Frederick-Grey, is posted on the church website, www.ccuu.org/video.

Greetings to members and friends of Countryside Church Unitarian Universalist! I’m duRee Bryant and I serve as the President of your Board of Trustees. I am coming to you today on behalf of the Board, who wanted to reach out to you during this challenging and rapidly changing time. Along with all of you, we miss seeing everyone’s friendly faces at worship and book group and choir rehearsal and Sunday School and Transitions and... well, the list could go on and on. In fact, I imagine many of us are actually missing seeing each other in person even at committee meetings at this point! But thanks to our hardworking staff and several volunteers, we have been able to continue the work of the church in new ways. This has taken a lot of time, effort, learning, and experimentation to find avenues for continued and meaningful connection, and the Board would like to thank the staff and these volunteers for working so tirelessly to keep us together as a church family and to attend to our needs during this unparalleled time in our history. We have been able to be nimble in responding to the recommendation to shelter-in-place and now the subsequent lockdown. Many issues have been addressed with turning toward online avenues for worship, meetings, and other gatherings for the time being.

The Board recognizes that we are all experiencing anxiety in the midst of uncertainty. While we don’t know each of your individual circumstances and the challenges and fears you may be dealing with, we are aware that everyone is finding it necessary to make adaptations in our home and work lives. Similarly, the Board is looking at modifications that will need to be made in order to keep our church home and family operational and ready for an eventual return to something more approximating “normal.”

In regards to the current church fiscal year which runs until the end of June, we know there will be some reductions to our income stream, such as rental fees paid by outside groups who utilize our facility. In the face of these likely reductions, we stand by and support the ongoing work of our minister and professional staff during this time and are committed to making sure they continue to be compensated for their work. The Board has discussed logical places where cuts could be made to the budget without loss of service. For instance, we have put our garbage service on hold for now and adjusted the thermostats for an empty facility. And yesterday, Rev. Hilary, Laurie, Alison, and Mary met to identify other areas where savings can be made as a result of the temporary alterations that have been made to our programming.

As for looking ahead to the upcoming 2020-21 fiscal year, our annual stewardship canvass demonstrated a tremendous generosity on the part of the congregation, with many homes raising their pledges. At the same time, a few key households, for a variety of reasons, needed to lower their expected contribution or shared that they have plans to move out of the area for work or family reasons. At our budget team meeting on March 4, we were already struggling with how best to approach the congregation with the dilemma that even after making cuts to the proposed budget, there is still a significant gap between expected income and necessary expenses for next church year. Not long after that evening meeting, we all encountered the unprecedented challenge of the coronavirus and its accompanying fallout.

As you might expect, congregations all over the country, UU and otherwise, are facing the impact of this crisis, and the Countryside staff and Board are already availing (continued next page…)

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Minister’s Muse

It all seems a little unreal – that’s what I hear from colleagues and congregants and friends, and at moments, from the inside of my own head. We are in a strange, liminal time. That time between the world that was before the coronavirus and the world that will be, once there is some kind of treatment for it or a vaccine to either prevent it or lessen its severity. In the meantime, due to the failures on the part of our national leadership, we were unprepared for a pandemic and unprepared for this one. Due to the severity of this particular virus, we are sequestered in our homes in order to protect our own health and to protect the health of others. So this is the between time. Normally being in a liminal time – a threshold time – is kind of weird, uncertain, undefined. For us, it does not need to be simply weird, uncertain, undefined. There is a power in this moment that has to do with actually reaching out and connecting with one another in all the ways possible and all the ways that are healthy. The Board, Lay Ministers, and our whole staff at Countryside Church Unitarian Universalist have been hard at work getting us all connected, discovering every avenue that we can for connecting us, and trying to ensure that no one would be left outside the circle of care.

That’s only part of the challenge. The other part is for every member and friend of this congregation to step into the circle. We’ve created a number of opportunities for connection during the week. Not only do we have worship on Sunday morning at 10, we have a short meditation service on Thursdays at 7 pm, and several different times that I have considered office hours, in which I would hang out on zoom with my metaphorical door open for people to come and visit. Really, it isn’t simply for people to visit me, it is for people in the congregation to touch base with one another. So, instead of calling these chats with the minister, we’re going to call them virtual coffee, and while I will be present, the main purpose is to connect the members of the congregation with one another, to get caught up, to see one another’s faces, to tell stories and jokes, and to share the strategies that we are each discovering for facing this strange time.

Our Director of Lifespan Religious Education, Dr. Mary Shelden, has also set up a couple of meeting times during the week, for people just to stop by her virtual office and visit. Our music director, Alison Vernon, has a short check in with the choir after the meditation service on Thursdays.

I and the staff are also scheduling a weekly lunch with the congregation. This will be an opportunity for people to bring a sack lunch to their computer screen or tablet or phone and to join the zoom conversation, just to shoot the breeze while we eat lunch together. Join us Tuesdays, Noon – 1 pm.

We even have a team of people who are available to help you with the technology if you need it. If, for example, you want to know how to use your telephone to join a zoom session because you don’t want to use the computer. Just email TechHelp@ccuu.org, and someone who can help will be in touch with you.

I truly believe that if we use this time of separation to deliberately reach out to one another, that when the time

(continued...)

From Your Board President (cont’d)

ourselves of the resources and advice being shared with us by the denomination. During the coming weeks, we will be sharing with you what we are learning and what that might mean to things like “how to put together a budget in a time of extreme unpredictability” and “what happens to the annual congregational meeting?” We will also be looking at ideas for creative fundraising in a time of online (rather than on site) gatherings. So stay tuned, and we will continue to reach out to you with information as we know it. In the meantime, we are aware that some of you were already considering an increase to your pledge - this would be a source of much joy and celebration, and can be done by contacting Laurie at 847-359-8440 ext 1. We appreciate your digging deep and helping us to keep our commitments to our staff and our facility.

At worship last Sunday (March 22), Rev. Hilary spoke of being “masterpieces of connection.” Your Board of Trustees wants to honor our connection to you by being available by phone, email, or text to hear any questions or concerns you have to share with us; you may find our contact information on the Church Breeze system or by calling the church office. (These calls are forwarded now to Laurie where she is working from home – just as, when you call Rev. Hilary’s office, the calls are forwarded to her home). The last few weeks have shown us the meaningful place Countryside Church has in our lives - as we see 130+ households “sign in” for Sunday service and religious school, and hear about the online meetings and gatherings we have participated in to maintain our connections with each other in new ways. In a slight change to the original literary language, “These are the times that try our souls” - may we continue to bring our resources, our leadership, and our creativity to catalyzing our values and principles to meet the challenge of these times.

Take care, keep in touch, and stay well,

...duRee (prez@ccuu.org)

Minister’s Muse (cont’d)

of physical separation is over, we will be stronger as a faith community and a human community than ever. I believe this can be a time of growth and learning and strengthening and the time for building truly strong relationships.

We can help one another move through this complicated time, support one another with anxieties and stresses, help one another with concrete needs – in short, we can be human together.

If you are shy about tuning in, call me. I can be easily reached on my office phone five days a week from eight in the morning until eight at night. 847-359-8440 x2.

Please engage, participate, and stay well. …Hilary

Minister's Office Hours

It's important to me to keep in touch with the congregation. I am available Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and most Sunday afternoons for one-on-one appointments. Call 847-359-8440 x2 to talk or to make an appointment for a phone or Zoom or Skype one-on-one meeting.
Tea & Coffee with CCUU
It's important for the congregation to stay in touch with one another. Join members of staff and other Countrysiders for online conversation. Bring a cuppa' and we'll relax and get caught up, reduce isolation.

- **Tuesdays, 10-11 am: Tea-Coffee** with Rev. Hilary & with one another. Go to [https://zoom.us/j/184024282](https://zoom.us/j/184024282) or call 1-312-626-6799 and enter meeting ID 184 024 282
- **Wednesdays, 12-1 pm: Lunch with the CCUU Staff.** Go to [https://zoom.us/j/731839164](https://zoom.us/j/731839164) or call 1-312-626-6799 and enter meeting ID 731 839 164
- **Wednesdays, 6-7 pm: After Work Chill Time.** Go to [https://zoom.us/j/232840740](https://zoom.us/j/232840740) or call 1-312-626-6799 and enter meeting ID 232 840 740

Countryside Connection Clusters
Our Lay Ministry team and I are initiating a new program – called Countryside Connection Clusters – to help people stay connected during this challenging time. We have grouped households by zip code to facilitate connections. Each cluster has approximately 15 households in it and will have a couple of steady or rotating callers – people who during the time of shelter-in-place, will check in with the other households periodically. They will be calling to get a sense of how people are doing, whether there is an illness or special need in the home, and if the household needs support – perhaps from our tech team or the Minister or the Lay Ministry Team. The Clusters have the potential to share resources, drop off a caserole, go for a walk at a good social distance, and after the virus is addressed, to continue to support and socialize together.

There is nothing compulsory about the Connection Clusters; you can opt out. You won’t be asked to give support you cannot give or to make calls if you don’t want to, and no money will be involved in this. Barbara Griggs, Joy Simon, and Roger Lofstrand will be calling folks over the next couple of weeks to identify our Callers. To provide a sense of safety for everyone, we will ensure that every caller is screened, known, trustworthy.

People are stepping up to support one another, and this is one way to carefully implement that support. It will keep us in touch even if the only support needed is the knowledge that you are part of a large and caring faith community. I’m excited about the possibilities for strengthening the bonds of kinship among our members and friends. We will not let social distance divide our hearts.

In reason, love, and awe, Rev. Hilary

CCUU Families, Join us on Facebook
Mary has been posting activity suggestions—including joining her for online story time, as well as just plain fun stuff on the CCUU Family Ministry Facebook group. This is a closed group. To request to join the group, go to [https://www.facebook.com/groups/1821210571463096/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1821210571463096/)
If you’ve tried this link in the past without success, we’ve just changed a setting that should allow you to see it to request membership. Try again now - and thanks for your patience!

From Our Director of Lifespan Religious Education (DLRE)
Oh, Dear Ones:
We find ourselves in remarkable circumstances. On the one hand, there is a hidden danger in our midst – very real but we cannot see it, only learn about it from experts or from the hard school of experience. It’s true – what’s out there is not entirely known, and there is even a danger that we might bring it in with us as we wait out the storm in our homes. It’s hard to feel truly safe anywhere. And our loved ones may still be out there on the front lines. Worse yet, someone we love may take ill, maybe even ourselves. We may lose someone close to us, or our own life. This is all just the reality of our current predicament. My own sense of things is that it is best to look all of this in the face, take a deep breath, and ask the universe for the courage to face what is ahead. At our house, when we need this courage, we send one another what we call “brave waves.” I send them to all of you now. You may rely on me to keep sending.

All that said, this is not all of the reality – not by a long shot. There is much to do to keep us busy during the great shut-in. There is music from a variety of sources – from Mary Chapin Carpenter to Yo-Yo Ma to the Nashville studio artists. There are art lessons from Mo Willems and art history lessons from the Chicago Art Institute. Daily, there’s Brookfield Zoo’s “Bringing the Zoo to You” and Flamingo Rampant’s story time. And there’s church and religious education and social hour on Zoom! (We’re all Zoomitian Zoomiversalists now!) I find that baking also works – as an act of creation and then afterward, in the act of eating it. There is a veritable flourishing of culture, both virtually and in our somewhat topsy-turvy actual households. Then, of course, there is work and school and, if we are able, volunteering to occupy us. **Hope and keep busy** is what Louisa May Alcott used to say, quoting her mother, Abba – the American civil war predecessor to Britain’s “Keep Calm and Carry On” in World War II.

May we be there for one another in this time, even when we cannot be there. May we be there for one another if we falter, and even if we don’t. May we be there until we cannot be there. May we be filled with loving kindness, may we be well, may we be whole. ...Mary

Lifespan Religious Education Start-Up
**Will be going virtual...**
Due to our MidAmerica & UUA staff not planning any travel until mid or late May, we are working with Nancy Combs-Morgan to create a virtual LRE start-up. If you have an interest in our Lifespan Faith Development program, you are encouraged to participate in this workshop. So we may gauge levels of interest, please register: [https://ccuu.breezechms.com/form/LREstart-up](https://ccuu.breezechms.com/form/LREstart-up)

In faith and love,
Rev. Hilary and Mary
Online Worship Services & Coffee Hour

Sundays at 10:00 am and Thursdays at 7:00 pm

We are currently live streaming our worship services via Zoom. To join our online worship services,

- Sundays: https://zoom.us/j/412124873 or call* 1-312-626-6799 and enter meeting id 412 124 873
- Thursday Vespers: This is a short (about 30 mins) meditation service. https://zoom.us/j/402521324 or call* 1-312-626-6799 and enter meeting id 402 521 324.

We are working to get recordings of the services onto the website for those unable to join live. Stay tuned for more info.

Sunday Virtual Coffee Hour at 11 am

Following the Sunday morning worship service, we are having an online coffee hour. It is a separate Zoom meeting, so to join:

- at the end of worship, go to https://us04web.zoom.us/j/660788034 or call* 1-312-626-6799 and enter meeting id 660 788 034.

For this purpose, we are using a Zoom tool called Breakout Rooms, which allows us to gather in smaller groups than the 150ish households that have been joining us for worship. We will also have optional discussion questions or topics for those who might like help having conversation with someone new.

If you would like help navigating the Zoom coffee hour, email TechHelp@ccuu.org and someone will contact you to assist.

*The phone number listed for the Zoom meetings is for the Chicago area. If you need a phone number outside the Chicago area, go to https://zoom.us/u/ac5VDmxWtA to find your local number.

### Zoom Basics for joining online worship & meetings

For the worship service and any meetings which will happen online, we are currently using the platform Zoom. You will be sent an invitation or a meeting id (for worship, that info is included below with the worship description).

- a video which shows how to join a Zoom meeting: https://vimeo.com/397678793
- a website with basic instructions about using Zoom: https://eldersaction.org/zoom-instructions/

### Need more than Zoom Basics?

Some of our more tech-savvy congregants have offered to help those who need help learning the ins and outs of navigating a Zoom meeting. We will set up either one-on-one help sessions or small group tutorials, depending on how many people we hear from. Please email TechHelp@ccuu.org if you would like Zoom help.

### To Schedule a Zoom Meeting for Your Group

Email Office@ccuu.org or call 847-359-8440 ext 1

### Making Our Way Together Song List

In addition to this month’s musical inspiration for Liberation (see page 6), Soul Matters Sharing Circle has put together Making Our Way Together, a song list for staying connected during COVID19. It's on:

- YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=imMiZT0uhB4&list=PLvXOKgOQVYP5QBJY1X8XX1KvGcJyHnvF
- Spotify: https://open.spotify.com/playlist/0ssKy1sAjojtsW85JfJd?

### Donating to CCUU during this time

Knowing that this is a time of challenge for everyone, we are grateful for ongoing and additional support from members and friends of Countryside Church Unitarian Universalist. To sustain our programs and our staff, to strengthen infrastructure, to offer a richness of familiar services, to strengthen our presence in a fractured world, and to innovate new ways of connecting, we hope that you will extend support to CCUU. Whether member or friend, pledger or regular contributor, or someone who never before realized how much you need the kind of connection, principles, support, ethics, and vision that CCUU and Unitarian Universalism offer -- this is the time to give -- even to give a little more than you thought possible.

For information about how to donate, please go to http://ccuu.org/donate/

As always, reach out to Rev. Hilary, if you need help.
Meet Us Online...

Online Journaling Circle
April 2, 10 am
Writing Together for Self-Discovery
We gather on the 1st Thursday of each month. This month, we will meet via Zoom to journal on our April theme of Liberation. To join the online session:
- go to https://zoom.us/j/215537179
- or to participate by phone, call 1-312-626-6799 and when prompted, enter meeting id 215 537 179
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. Have your notebook/journal and a pen ready & join us online for personal exploration and growth.

CCUU Choir
Online Gathering
Thursdays, 7:30 pm
To join the meeting, go to https://zoom.us/j/112477318, or to join by phone, dial 1-312-626-6799 and when prompted, enter meeting i.d. 112 477 318.

Open Forum Discussion
Sundays, 9-9:50 am
We will meet via Zoom during the time that in-person church meetings are cancelled. Our planned topic for March 29 is Should we replace private insurance with Medicare for all? To join the online Forum discussion:
- go to https://zoom.us/j/707848506
- or to participate by phone, call 1-312-626-6799 and when prompted, enter meeting id 707 848 506.

Women 60+ Building a Village
Thurs, April 9, 10 am
We will hold our April meeting via Zoom. To join:
- go to https://zoom.us/j/735955994 or
- call 312 626 6799 and when prompted, enter meeting ID 735 955 994.

Transitions ~ Online
Thurs, April 23, 10 am
George Motto will moderate an interactive discussion on What Does the corona Virus Pandemic Mean for Humanity? To join us:
- go to https://zoom.us/j/326203136 or
- Call 1-312-626-6799, meeting id 326 203 136

Last Mondays Book Group
April 27, 7 pm
We are postponing our discussion of Treasure Island until we can meet in person. For our April 27 meeting, we will do an online book discussion; stay tuned to CCUU publications for Zoom meeting info and the title selected.

Attention, All Sewers! JourneyCare Hospice Seeks Mask Makers
Their target is 2000 masks so they can use all the help they can get. All the info and instructions are included on their website, https://journeycare.org/masks/

PADS Help Needed
The PADS site which we usually assist has made the decision to shut down as a PADS site for the remainder of the season. There are still ways we can help the homeless individuals and families who are served by the PADS shelters. For the most current needs, go to https://www.journeystheroadhome.org/

MidAmerica Regional Assembly—Participate ONLINE
April 18 ~ Register Now!
In solidarity and care for one another, the MidAmerica Region has transitioned Regional Assembly to a virtual event. The registration fee to participate in the virtual assembly is $50. For more info and to register, go to their website -- https://www.uua.org/midamerica/ra/2020.
If you plan to attend and would like to be a delegate, please contact Rev. Hilary or Board Prez duRee Bryant; we are allowed six voting delegates.

All In For Climate Justice: People, Power, Planet ~ April 17-18
Join via Zoom: Register now through April 9
The UU United Nations Office The UU@UN's annual Intergenerational Spring Seminar, All In for Climate Justice: People, Power, Planet, will take place virtually rather than in-person due to the current threat posed by COVID-19. Registration for all attendees (age 14+) is open! Attendance is free, and we request a donation of $20 per attendee so that we can pay our presenters. The Planning Committee is currently working on details for the schedule and programming which will be updated online as frequently as possible.
More info and to register: https://www.uua.org/international-justice/un/spring-seminar

Wellness House
Online Offerings
Hypnosis Group & Reiki Sessions
Wellness House has begun to successfully facilitate virtual programs for those in our area who have or have had cancer. For available remote programs, go to https://wellnesshouse.org/virtual-programs/; their website will continue to be the best place to go for the most current information.
True wisdom comes in understanding that sometimes, you are both the prison and the key.
- Johnathan Jena

Jena is right. Liberation is much more complicated than we usually tell ourselves. It would be so much easier if life really was divided up neatly between the good and bad guys, between those trapped and those holding the key. There are certainly times when the fight for freedom is about calling out and challenging “those people.” But true liberation seems to rest with those who have the courage to start with themselves and notice how “me” and “them” are more entangled than it appears at first blush.

And seeing ourselves as both prison and key is only the beginning. Sometimes we are also the guard, carrying out orders we don’t like but are too afraid to challenge. And what about the many ways we are funders of the entire jail? The wise ones are right: dismantling oppressive systems begins with noticing the many ways we ourselves prop it up.

So does this mean that confession plays a bigger role in liberation than we’d like to admit? Well, yes, a bit of healthy self-confrontation seems a must. We need to push ourselves when we play the helpless victim, put on the holier-than-thou cloak of self-righteousness and hide behind those stories about having “good intentions” or “clean hands.”

Yet, as every religion worth its salt says, confession by itself leads down a dark road. It must always be paired with compassion. We’ve got to remember that as well. We’ve got to remember that we are all liberators and oppressors, victims and victimizers. It’s not just you that is prisoner, key, guard, warden and jail funder wrapped into one. It’s all of us. You, me, them. We all play all the parts. We’re all caught up in the mess, pain and tragedy of it together.

Which seems to mean we all need to be a bit more humble and a bit more kind.

Indeed, in the end, maybe those are the most important keys. Maybe that’s the way we all can make it out together.

Questions for Considering Liberation
As always, don’t treat these questions like “homework” or try to answer every single one. Instead, make time to meditate on the list and then pick the one question that speaks to you most. The goal is to figure out which question is “yours.” Which question captures the call of your inner voice? Which one contains “your work”? What is that question trying to get you to notice or acknowledge? Often it helps to read the list to a friend or loved one and ask them which one they think is the question you need to wrestle with!

1. What’s something you know now about liberation that you didn’t know when you were 18 years old?
2. Have you become more or less free as you’ve aged?
3. For you, what is the opposite of liberation?
4. Do you need to liberate yourself from the ordinary?
5. Is the strategy you once used to survive now leaving you with no room to breathe?
6. Who taught your greatest fear? (Notice how different this question is from “What caused it?” or “When did it arise?”)
7. Who in your family of origin shares your greatest fear? What did you learn from the way they handled it?
8. Do you need a new metaphor for your liberation?
   After all, telling yourself “I need to escape” is very different than “It’s time for me to finally leap.” Or maybe it’s time for you to “break free” or “let go” or “refuse to carry it anymore.” For some, liberation is found in “refusing to run away.” For others, it’s about “allowing myself to feel I deserve it.” How about you?
9. Are you unnecessarily trapped in shame? There’s a big difference between shame and guilt. Telling yourself “something is wrong with me” is very different than telling yourself “I did something wrong.” Do you know the difference? Could reminding yourself of it be the key to setting yourself free?
10. They say the role of the artist is to make revolution irresistible. Could this be your calling?
11. Do you ever feel like you are spending your days on the ends of strings that somebody else pulls?
12. Have you ever used the work of liberating others as a way of avoiding your own liberating work?
13. Do you need to ask someone to stop trying to liberate you?
14. Are you imprisoned by what might happen?
15. Who needs let out of the box you’ve put them in?
16. Do you need to let yourself out of the box you’ve put yourself in?

Get daily inspiration on the monthly theme by liking the CCUU Facebook page: [https://www.facebook.com/pages/Countryside-Church-Unitarian-Universalist/218478024883750](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Countryside-Church-Unitarian-Universalist/218478024883750)

Find musical inspiration on each theme by following the monthly playlists on
- YouTube: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCL_fSD0_Ps01IGauCVL_mKQ/playlists](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCL_fSD0_Ps01IGauCVL_mKQ/playlists)

Find support for bringing the monthly themes into your family life with Soulful Home: A Guide for Families: [www.soulmatterssharingcircle.com/soulful-home.html](http://www.soulmatterssharingcircle.com/soulful-home.html)

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Our Soul Connections small ministry groups discuss the monthly themes, questions, and activities each month. For further info regarding the Soul Connections program, go to [http://ccuu.org/soulconnections/](http://ccuu.org/soulconnections/)
2020-21 Leadership Slate

 Listed here is the slate of candidates put forth by the Nominating Committee for the upcoming church year. The church membership will vote at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 17 at 11 am. The nominees, if elected, will assume their positions on July 1. These candidates were thoughtfully selected and recruited by our Nominating Committee, and we are confident that they will serve our church well, with both skill and compassion.

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

Board of Trustees
Nominees for the Board of Trustees:
- President-elect: Tom Dempsey [1-yr term as President-elect, will then serve a 2-year term as President]
- Vice President: Kathi Hillyer [1st year of second 2-year term as VP]
- Trustee: Chris Hitchcock [1st year of second 2-year term]
- Trustee: Tim Reuter-Bowers [1st year of 2-year term]
- Trustee: Denise Sepos [1st year of 2-year term]

Continuing on the Board of Trustees:
- President: duRee Bryant [2nd year of 2-yr term]
- Secretary: CarolAnn Shindelar [2nd year of 2-yr term]
- Treasurer: Marcus White [2nd year of second 2-year term]
- Trustee: Joy Simon [2nd year of third 2-year term]
- Trustee: Leslie Vaughn [2nd year of 2-year term]

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

Nominees for the Endowment Committee:
1. Craig Wydell (1st year of 5-year term)
2. Rem Stokes (2nd year of 5-year term)
3. Laura Corrigan (3rd year of 5-year term)
4. Mike Berry (4th year of 5-year term)
5. Tony Pretto (5th year of 5-year term)

Nominating Committee
From the ByLaws, Article X-4 (as revised by congregational vote on 5-19-19): The Nominating Committee shall consist of five (5) to seven (7) members. Between four (4) and six (6) members shall be elected to serve for a term of two (2) years. Each shall be eligible for reelection to one (1) additional term. One member shall be appointed each year by the Board of Trustees to serve for a one-year term. No Nominating Committee member may serve more than four years of continuous service. Elections shall be held at the Annual Congregational Meeting each year. The Convener of the Nominating Committee shall be selected by the President from those directly elected by the Congregation to the Nominating Committee.

Nominee for the Nominating Committee:
1. Cheryl Murray [1st year of second 2-year term]

Continuing on the Nominating Committee:
1. John Alton [2nd year of 2-year term]
2. Barrie Burr [2nd year of 2-year term]
3. John Evans [2nd year of 2-year term]

We would like to thank those members who are completing their service for their commitment to the work of Countryside Church:
- Karen Epps – Board Member
- Vince Unger – Board Member
- Lois Phillips – Endowment Committee
- Karen Noorani – Nominating Committee
- Jeff Phillips – Nominating Committee
- Elizabeth Vesto – Board appointee to Nominating Committee
Focus
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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
Apr 29 (publ May 6) May 27 (publ Jun 3) July 1 (publ July 8)
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 10 am.

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For assistance from Lay or Care Ministry, please call Ken or Rev. Hilary.

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