

## Upcoming Worship Services

*Sunday Worship Services begin at 10:30 am. Unless otherwise stated below, childcare and religious education classes are provided for all children and youth during Sunday morning services.*

**April 6 Candidating Week**

**The Rev. Hilary Landau Krivchenia**

**April 13 Candidating Week**

**The Rev. Hilary Landau Krivchenia**

Our Ministerial Candidate, will lead and preach these two services. Please note that an all-congregation meeting will be held immediately following the service on April 13 to vote on whether or not to call Rev. Hilary to be Countryside Church's next settled minister. See the related article in *The Focus* or the search bulletin board outside the office for more details.

**April 20 Earth Day**

**Rev. Beaudreault**

*Share the Plate: Half of the cash collected will be donated to Citizens for Conservation, located in Barrington. Their mission statement is "Saving Living Space for Living Things" through protection, restoration and stewardship of land, conservation of natural resources, and education.*

**April 27 The Limits to Toleration**

**Rem Stokes**

Toleration has historically been a high value for UUs. We teach respect for the beliefs of others. But some beliefs are harmful to society, and some simply insult common sense. Should all religious beliefs get a "pass" from critical review, or are there limits to toleration?

**May 4 Affirmations: Coming of Age Service**

**Colleen Vahey & Coming of Age Group**

Our Coming of Age students will present their affirmation statements, the articulation of their own developing beliefs. We hope you'll join us in celebrating this wondering group of eighteen youth! Please know the service will run a little longer than usual. . .we greatly appreciate your support on this important day!

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## Upcoming Focus Deadlines April 14 & 28 @ 9am

Submissions can be placed in the *Focus* mailbox in the church office or emailed to [ccuu@ccuu.org](mailto:ccuu@ccuu.org).

## Meet the Ministerial Candidate

The Search Committee is delighted to invite you to participate in Candidating Week, April 5-13. This is the final step in Countryside's search for a settled minister. It is a nine-day "getting to know you" event that allows both the congregation and the ministerial candidate, the Reverend Hilary Krivchenia, to make sure the match is a good one before making a final commitment.

The final issue of the search committee's newsletter is available on the bulletin board outside the church office. It has biographical and professional information about Rev. Krivchenia and an open letter from her to our congregation.

You should have recently received an invitation and detailed schedule of candidating week events in the mail. Some of the highlights of the week are listed on page 2.

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## Candidating Week Highlights

You should have received an invitation and detailed schedule of candidating week events in the mail. Here are some highlights:

◆ Reverend Hilary will conduct worship services on April 6 and April 13.

◆ Immediately following the service on April 13, there will be a congregational meeting to vote on calling the candidate to be our next minister. All are welcome; all members in good standing are eligible to vote. Child care will be provided.

◆ During the week, we've scheduled meetings for Reverend Hilary to meet with many of the operating and program committees of the church.

◆ The week also features a number of all-church events. The intent of these events is to give people who will not be meeting with Rev. Hilary in smaller meetings the opportunity to get to know her. These are open to all members and friends and they include:

- A family potluck dinner on Saturday, April 5 from 5:00 - 8:00 pm.
- A dessert reception and open forum for parents, teachers, mentors, and youth involved in our Religious Education program, on Saturday, April 5 from 6:30 - 7:00 pm
- A pancake breakfast/Coming of Age fundraiser on Sunday, April 6 at 11:30 am
- A potluck luncheon on Thursday, April 10 from 11:30 am - 1:00 pm
- An open house on Friday April 11 from 7:00 - 8:00 pm
- Donuts and coffee on Saturday, April 12 from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm.

We heartily encourage everyone to participate in at least one of the various opportunities that will be available to meet the candidate. If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Search Committee: Richard Chay, Nancy Dempsey, Stephanie Matz, Jane Matthews, Chris Smith, Kim Tilford, Dan Wiseman.

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## Song Circle

You are invited to a Song Circle on April 18 at 7 pm at the Church. This is an informal gathering of singers and musicians. Bring an instrument if you play one, your voice, lyrics and music if you want others to sing and play with you, and your own beverages and snacks. Any questions, call Jeff Phillips, Tony Pretto or Tom Dempsey. We hope to see you there.

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## Who Can Vote for New Minister?

On April 13, we will vote on calling Rev. Hilary Krivchenia to serve this congregation as our next settled minister. As called for in Article I, Sec. 4 of our By-Laws,

*The right to vote at a business meeting of this Corporation shall be reserved to those holding membership in this Corporation for a minimum of 31 days; who have made a "financial pledge" to support the Church in the current fiscal year; and, if a member for a year or more, have within the past 12 months made the minimum contribution established by the Board of Trustees.*

The official membership deadline date was March 13. The minimum contribution is \$75/person. If you have been a member for more than a year and have not made at least the minimum payment within the last 12 months (since March 2007) and wish to vote, you will need to make your payment prior to voting on April 13.

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## Agnosticism, Humanism, Atheism

Please join your other congregation members at the 4th session of the Agnosticism, Humanism and/or Atheism discussion group on Tuesday, April 15 at 7:00PM in Atherton Hall. We expect to show a DVD entitled "Evolution, The Mind's Big Bang, What About God" that showed on Public Television. Group members exchange thoughts and ideas although no one is required to talk if they do not want to. Some of our members have also brought friends that have found our group to be welcoming, warm and enjoying their journey in the search for truth. Contact Jim Booth with questions.



## Noteworthy

My column seems to be a running list of thank-yous for jobs well done. Who can complain about that?

- For making the choir room and music office worthy of a spread in House Beautiful, I offer my thanks to Lois Phillips and her capable crew of painters: Denise Sepos, Karen Spielman, and Paula Cowan.
- To our Easter service guest musicians, Wayne Gordon, whose masterful horn playing filled our ears with riveting and uplifting melodies of Mozart; and junior choir singers Nathan Kadlec, Emily Smith, Terri Rogers, Jane Berry, and Eden Ezsak, ably assisted by choir members Beth Gerson and Laurie Lantz, who joined our Countryside Choir in a lovely spring anthem by English composer John Rutter.

Happy Spring, and thanks to all of you! ...Jeff Hamrick

## Open Forum Discussion

In this group, we agree to discuss current issues and controversies in a welcoming, mutually respectful manner. Please enjoy ease in parking and punctual arrival at church by joining us before the service for a stimulating exchange of diverse views. We meet Sunday mornings at 9:15 am in the Senior High Room (Classroom 5). We plan to discuss the following topics on the following dates (based on breaking news, topics do sometimes change).

- April 13: Values in Politics: The Roles of Secularism and Religion
- April 20: Culture and Politics: What Impacts What, and How?
- April 27: Personal Values and Political Realities: What Impacts What, and How?
- May 4: Responsibility and Accountability in Politics
- May 11: Labels in Politics: Of What Value are "Liberal" and "Conservative"?

Newcomers remain welcome. To ask questions or to be added to our email list from which to receive readings, please contact Vid Axel.

## Nigeria

### A Humanitarian Trip To Eradicate Polio

On Tuesday, April 22, 7-9 pm, Peggy Simonsen will share her experience participating in a Rotary International trip to Nigeria, the only country in Africa that still has pockets of polio infecting children. In visits to the incredibly poor countryside, she and her team administered oral polio vaccine to at-risk children and learned about the culture that has inhibited the total eradication of polio. Her poignant photos show the contrasting city/country living conditions, the significant projects led by local Rotary Clubs, the colorful dress worn for special events, and especially the beautiful Hausa children. Join a discussion about this effort and how micro-loans to women are changing their lives.

**A BIG Raffle**  
is in the works  
to take a BIG bite  
out of the 07-08  
fundraising deficit.

Raffle prize is BIG, BIG, BIG!  
Second and third prizes too!  
A limited number of tickets will be sold.  
Watch Focus, emails, blue insert and  
posters for raffle ticket sales dates and  
details about the BIG prize.

## In Sympathy

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Maria Martinez on the sudden death of her brother, Bill Martinez, on March 29.

## Thank You

Thank you for all the kind thoughts, cards, calls, and personal expressions of sympathy extended to me following the death of my father. He was a dear and gentle man and is greatly missed. Your concern is much appreciated and the comfort that comes from being part of this community is precious. Sincerely, Judy Ball

## Path To Membership Classes

For all those who had wanted to take the Path to Membership classes earlier this year, and for those who are now considering membership and wish to participate, they have been rescheduled to the following dates:

- Friday, May 9: 7 - 9pm, either at someone's home or at the church, depending on how many people can come
- Saturday, May 10: 10 am - 12 noon, at the church, includes light breakfast
- Sunday, May 25: 12 - 2 pm, at the church, includes lunch
- Sunday, June 8: Joining Ceremony during the worship service with a reception to follow

If you wish to join the class, please contact Kay Gredell or Yuki Juretic. There is also a sign-up sheet on the nametag kiosk by the greeters' window.

## focus

### Published by Countryside Church

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Church Office Hours *Mon - Fri, 10 am - 3 pm*

Interim Minister *Don Beaudreault*  
Director of Religious Education *Colleen Vahey*  
Minister Emeritus *Dr. Ruppert L. Lovely*  
Community-Based Minister *Dr. C. Scot Giles*  
Music Director & Pianist *Jeffrey Hamrick*  
Music Director Emeritus *John Denny*  
Congregational Administrator *Laurie Lantz*

### Lay Ministers

Ken Bobbe and Trudy Kleckner, Coordinators  
Richard Chay                      Joyce Swedlund  
Larry Frank                        Kimberly Tilford  
Jane Matthews                    Dan Yokas

For assistance from our Lay or Care Ministries,  
please call Ken or Trudy.

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## Religious Education News

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### Coming of Age Pancake Breakfast

After an inspirational service by our ministerial candidate on April 6, come into Atherton Hall for a delicious breakfast of mixed fresh fruit, grilled pancakes, and savory sausage served with that never-ending cup of coffee, tea or other beverage. You will be cheerfully served by the Coming of Age group for their last fundraiser of the year. Remember, good food and good company makes a very pleasing combination for good conversation! Visitors are welcomed as our guests (no charge), so please join us for all the fun!

### “Coexist” T-shirts Are In

Your pre-ordered shirts will be distributed after service at a table leading into Atherton Hall. Sorry that no more orders can be taken at this time, but you can still purchase an aluminum water bottle with that fabulous “Coexist” logo. These reusable bottles without the imprint are sold elsewhere for \$20, so you get a real bargain at \$15 and it adds funds to the Coming of Age trip!

### Thank You!

The Coming-of-Age class would like to thank everyone who ordered “Co-Exist” t-shirts. By purchasing the “Coexist” shirts, your generosity (and keen fashion design) has netted the group \$811 towards their Boston trip. Special thanks to Denise Sepos for her tremendous work coordinating this project!

### RE Opportunity Fair

We have an important ministry to our over 150 children and youth who attend religious education classes at CCUU. RE teachers, mentors and advisors often find that our children and youth offer an important ministry to the adults who are guiding and learning with them! Please join us Sundays, April 20 and 27, during coffee hour to learn more about how you can be involved with our growing religious education programs. “Come Grow With Us!”

### AFD Movie Night

The Adult Faith Development Council invites you to attend a free screening of the deeply moving short film, “The Awakening Universe” by Neal Rogin on Friday, April 18, 7-9pm.

*In a mere fifteen minutes, using awe-inspiring images and a sweeping original musical score, this film shows how science, spirit and ancient indigenous wisdom are now all converging to reveal that we stand in the very heart of that which created us. An entirely new context for human life is arising in our lifetime, with the potential to transform forever our sense of separation, isolation and alienation into one of con-*

*nection, commonality and communion.* We will also show segments from the accompanying interview with philosopher and cosmologist Brian Swimme, who is featured in the movie. Join us for a power and moving discussion.

### Passing on Seder This Year

The all-church Seder has been a popular and fun event in the past years and a great way to share a meal with others. However, this year, due to the new minister’s candidating in April, and the MANY potluck dinners, etc. that we may attend, the Passover Seder will not be held. The finding and settling of our new minister is of utmost importance and we encourage everyone to meet in community, as we get to know our new candidate.

Next year, we will encourage everyone to meet in community at the all-church Seder. So, please attend as many potlucks and meetings with the candidate as you are able this April. Enjoy the spring season and the holidays!

### Common Ground Lecture on April 27

On Sunday, April 27 from 1-3 pm, Jim Kenney will present “The Global Convergence of Religions,” the third in the Common Ground lecture series at Countryside Church. For the past 20 years, Jim Kenney has been deeply involved in global interreligious engagement. He has served as Director or Trustee of many major organizations, including the Parliament of the World’s Religions, the International Interreligious Peace Council, and the International Interfaith Centre (Oxford). In this presentation, he’ll draw on that long experience to sketch a pattern of the gradual convergence of key figures from each of the world’s great religions in common vision, shared values, and cooperative urgent action for a better world. The movement does not mean the departure from theological distinctions but rather a “coming together” around critical values. It’s an extraordinarily hopeful account. Join us. Suggested donation: \$10.

### Child Dedications - May 18

UUs recognize several important rites of passage. Child dedications are one rite-of-passage offered as a celebration of new life - for all infants new to our world and children new to our congregation. A child dedication ceremony allows parents an opportunity to express their hopes and dreams for their child/ren, and the congregation to re-dedicate themselves to the spiritual nurture of each child. On Sunday, May 18, child dedications will be part of our Sunday worship service. If you are interested in having your child dedicated, or would like to learn more about this service, please contact Colleen Vahey, Director of Religious Education, 847-359-8440 x4.

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## The Agora Experience

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### Countryside Youth Volunteers in Transylvania

My two weeks working with Agora in the summer of 2007 were some of the most meaningful and enjoyable weeks of my life. The best part of the trip was not the beautiful scenery or even the delicious food. It was working alongside such an eclectic group of people. There were local Hungarian villagers, British volunteers, and Americans ranging from the age of 15 to 50. All of us worked side by side despite culture and language differences.

For our first week in the village, our major project was building ovens for drying fruit. Agora was trying to bring back the hundred-year old tradition of baking and smoking fruit that died out during communism. There is a good reason that the name of the village means something like apple town in English. There is fruit everywhere, but most of it goes to waste. Now, because of our ovens, that fruit is being used and it is bringing in more income to the village. During our second week in Transylvania we camped out at a UNESCO site. While there, we improved the campsite by building fire pits, constructing out houses, and improving a path down the side of the gorge.

Our time there was not all work and no play. Every day we would take a break from working and have fun. Some of the things we did in the village were making bread and cake from scratch, painting key holders in traditional designs, making paper, making cheese from goat and sheep milk. At the campsite, experts came to teach us about plants, and take us spelunking in the bat caves near by. The last three days of our trip we toured the country. The sites we saw included Vlad Dracula's castle and birth place, and the Peoples Palace in the capital city of Bucharest.

All the volunteers stayed with host families in the village who were training to become home stays for tourists. Despite the language barrier, it was not hard for us to feel at home in a remote village on the other side of the world. Hospitality is a major component to the Hungarian and the Romanian culture, so if you are planning on going, bring a large appetite. The villagers were so concerned for our stomachs, they sent their best cook to our campsite, which was hours away, to cook for us every night.

This was one of the most amazing experiences of my life and I would definitely recommend it for people who would like to volunteer, or to those who are simply looking for an authentic place to visit with their families. There is no prior experience with tools and building needed, only an open mind and willingness to work. If you have any questions about my experience, feel free to contact me or my mom, Karen. ...Sofia Noorani

### Adventure Volunteerism in Transylvania

Join us this summer for two unforgettable weeks in rural Transylvania. Discover the beautiful birthplace of Unitarianism and become part of a global community for positive change. Through service projects in the villages, you will gain experience and insight in the dynamic field of sustainable rural development. With homestay families and Agora's experienced staff, your group will explore the region's history, culture and landscape, make new friends and discover new ways of thinking, living, and having fun.

Visit [www.experience.green-agero.ro](http://www.experience.green-agero.ro) today to learn about the program. See a sample itinerary, and see what past attendees had to say about the Agora Experience.

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### Last Mondays Book Discussion

Please join us on Monday, April 28 at 7 pm in The Stokes Room to discuss The Book Thief by Marcus Zusak. Our selection for May will be announced and refreshments will be served.

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### Letter Writing for Illinois Civil Unions

The Rainbow Friends and Social Action Committee will be cosponsoring a community letter writing night on the upcoming vote on Civil Unions. Help is needed for clean-up and hosting. Please stop by to learn more about the bill - April 10 from 5-10 pm in Atherton Hall.

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### Mingle with Singles

It's Cabin Fever break-out time! Let's meet at the lounge at Flatlanders, 200 Village Green in Lincolnshire, on Saturday, April 12 at 6:30 pm to socialize before our dinner reservation at 7:30 pm. A blues band will be playing in the lounge later in the evening. RSVP to Virginia Love at [singlesgroup@nsuc.org](mailto:singlesgroup@nsuc.org) by Monday, April 7.

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### Buddhist Dharma Group

This group will meet for common support in the study of Buddhism, practice of meditation, and kinship of Dharma Circle on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month from 9-10:30 am in classroom 4. It is open to all.

## **COUNTRYSIDE CHURCH**

*Unitarian Universalist*

1025 Smith Road

Palatine, Illinois 60067

(847) 359-8440

Return Service Requested

Time-dated Material - Prompt Delivery Requested

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### **Upcoming Meetings and Events**

An online calendar of events and meetings is on the church website ([www.ccuu.org](http://www.ccuu.org)). If your church meeting is not listed there, please fill out a room reservation form (also on the website) and submit it to the church office.

Thurs, 4/3	7:15pm	Church Choir Rehearsal	Fri, 4/11	6pm	Past Bd Mbrs Reception w. Rev. Krivchenia
Fri, 4/4	6:30pm	Building Your Own Theology		6:30pm	Building Your Own Theology
	8pm	Drum Circle		7pm	All-Congregation Open House
Sat, 4/5	5pm	All-Congregation Potluck Supper	Sat, 4/12	8am	Journeys Retreat (off-site)
	6:30pm	RE Families meet with Rev. Krivchenia		10am	Open House for Rev. Krivchenia
Sun, 4/6	8:30am	Conversations with God Covenant Group		12pm	Covenant Grp Facilitators- Rev. Krivchenia
	9am	Buddhist Dharma Group		1pm	Rainbow Friends & Rev. Krivchenia
	9:15am	Open Forum Discussion		2pm	Worship Council Mtg with Rev. Krivchenia
	11:30am	Pancake Brunch	Sun, 4/13	9:15am	Open Forum Discussion
	12pm	OWL Class		11:30am	Congregational Mtg & Vote
	12:30pm	RE Committee Mtg with Rev. Krivchenia		12pm	Environmental Action Committee Meeting
	1:15pm	Social-Envir. Action Mtg w.Rev.Krivchenia		12pm	Expressive Dance for Fun Group
	7pm	Compassionate Comm.Covenant Group	Tues, 4/15	7pm	Board of Trustees Meeting
Mon, 4/7	6:30pm	Board Dinner w. Rev. Krivchenia (off-site)	Weds, 4/16	7pm	Compassionate Comm. Support Group
	7pm	The Enlightenment Class	Thurs, 4/17	7:15pm	Church Choir Rehearsal
Tues, 4/8	6:30pm	Program Council Dinner w. Rev.Krivchenia			
	7pm	Living Our UU Principles Covenant Group			
	7:30pm	Youth Group Mtg with Rev. Krivchenia			
	7:30pm	Tuesday Kinship Circle			
	7:30pm	Program Council Meeting			
Weds, 4/9	6:30pm	Ctte Dinner with Rev. Krivchenia (off-site)			
Thurs, 4/10	11:30am	Potluck Lunch			
	5pm	Rainbow Friends Letter Writing Campaign			
	7:15pm	Church Choir Rehearsal			
	7:45pm	Membership Ctte mtg with Rev.Krivchenia			
Fri, 4/11	5pm	Journeys Retreat (off-site)			

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### **Second Shipment to Rwanda**

Recently, John Denny graciously drove a vanload of shoes and summer clothes to West Chicago for shipping to Rwanda. The collection will conclude in May. Please bring any shoes or summer clothes you won't be wearing when the weather finally gets warm to church. Donation boxes are located in the coatroom and in the RE area.