
Upcoming Worship Services
Summer Services begin at 10:30 am

During summer worship services, childcare will be provided for ages 0-3 in the nursery, and we'll have one large mixed-age class for ages 4 and above. Children and Youth are welcome in the worship services. There will be no preservice music for the summer services; we will resume preservice hymn singing before our ingathering service on September 9.

August 5 Living in the Power of Now

Maggie and Charlie Wilkins

For the past 5 years, Maggie and Charlie (former Countryside members) have been offering "Living in the Power of Now" based on the teaching of Eckhart Tolle, bestselling author of The Power of Now and A New Earth. In 2001, Maggie worked with Eckhart Tolle as his personal assistant. Maggie and Charlie have spent time with Eckhart to develop their teaching. During this service, they will offer different modalities which direct us to experience the NOW and live in this moment out of our true joy and love. They will offer how pain in our life and world can be transformed into God's rightness and create space within us to embrace the flowering of a deeper spiritual understanding. Live Now - Live Truthfulness!

August 12 Blessing of the Animals

Dan Yokas, Tim Walsh, Joyce Swedlund

For the 6th year, this outdoor service will allow you to bring your leashed, caged, or otherwise-controlled animal to be blessed and honored. If you can't bring your pet, bring a picture or icon or just your memory. Bring a blanket or lawn chair to sit on at the south end of the Church. If it rains, we will be inside the sanctuary without the animals. If you have no pets, come and celebrate what animals bring to the world.

Share-the-Plate Offering: Half of the cash collected in the offering will be donated to Orphans of the Storm.

August 19 Prayer

Stephen Bero

Steve will share his thoughts on prayer, meditation, and contemplation.

August 26 How to Be Wise

Rev. Don Beaudreault

Have you ever met a "wise" person? I never have, although I have searched for one all my life. But then perhaps I have been looking in all the wrong places! I believe that Sidney J. Harris gets to the heart of the message when he tells us: "While the intellect is a thing to be respected and cultivated, it is not a shrine to worship at." Among others, we shall consider the Three WISE Men and the Goddess Sophia.

Sept 2 Amazing Coincidence

Rev. Dr. Scot Giles

Ever experience an amazing coincidence? You pick up the phone to call someone and discover they have just called you, and are actually on the line. A book falls off a shelf and falls open to the exact passage you were looking for. This is called "Synchronicity," and people have considered it to be everything from supernatural power to a sign from God. Certain events defy rational explanation, and they seem to point to a metaphysical power having an impact on our lives. Dr. Giles will explore Synchronicity, and why meaningful coincidences seem so emotionally powerful.

Inside This Issue...

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Upcoming Focus Deadlines

August 27 @ 9 am

September 10 @ 9 am

Submissions can be placed
in the *Focus* mailbox in the church office
or emailed to ccuu@ccuu.org.

We Are A Welcoming Congregation

On May 20, 2007, the members of Countryside Church passed a resolution to request that the Unitarian Universalist Association designate our congregation as a UUA Welcoming Congregation. On June 6, 2007, Countryside received that official designation from the UUA Office of Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian and Transgender Concerns.

This designation means that, after engaging in a process of self-examination, education and discussion, in accordance with the Welcoming Congregation Guidelines of the Unitarian Universalist Association, we declare ourselves to affirm bisexual, gay, lesbian, and transgender persons, to be responsive to their concerns, and to celebrate and be inclusive of bisexual, gay, lesbian, and transgender persons as members of our church community and our community at large.

We further commit ourselves to an ongoing process of making our church an open and affirming place where lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons will be included in all aspects of our church life—worship, study and discussion groups, committee work, and community service.

Jane Matthews, Co-Chair
Welcoming Congregation Committee

Can I Borrow Your Grill Sept. 8? Buddy Can You Spare an Hour?

I am looking to borrow a regular or large round Weber grill with a lid that uses charcoal for the Corn Roast set for September 8. I can pick up the grill and return the grill to you after the corn roast. Please contact David Cohen if you have a grill I can borrow. I am also looking for up to 3 chimneys used to start the charcoal.

I am looking for 2 or 3 helpers to donate one hour of time on September 8 to help me in grilling the corn. I need one person at 5:00 p.m., one person at 6:00 p.m. and one person at 7:00 p.m. It should be easy work. Andy Richards grilled all of the corn in the past by himself. This will be my first time grilling the corn so I am looking for helpers to assist me just in case. Please contact me if you can help out.

Green Corner

The Giving Garden

Would you like to donate vegetables from your own garden to local food pantries? There are many drop off points in the area. In Palatine you may drop off veggies at Knoppers on Rand Road and at the Palatine Township building on S. Quentin Rd. There are spots in Arlington Heights, Barrington, Mt. Prospect, etc. For more information and a list of the sites go to www.dailyherald.com/giving_garden.

Home Document Destruction Event

Communities in the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) can participate in a Home Document Destruction Event in Mount Prospect on October 6. The Solid Waste Agency of Lake County (SWALCO) communities have a facility for this purpose in Mundelein. Visit www.swancc.org or www.swalco.org to learn more.

Recycle Cell Phones & Printer Cartridges

Remember that you can donate your old cell phones and recycle your printer cartridges at church. The proceeds from the cell phone recycling goes toward our Coming of Age program, and the cartridges are donated to PetSmart Charities for homeless pets.

Recycle Rechargeable Batteries

Don't forget to recycle your old rechargeable batteries from cell phones, laptops, PDA's, camcorders, cordless power tools and remote control toys. Drop them off at Home Depot, Sears, Wal-Mart, Target, Best Buy, Staples, Circuit City, Cingular Wireless, or Radio Shack.

No Summer Spiritual Cinema

Spiritual Cinema films will not be shown in June, July, or August. The Conversations with God Covenant Group will resume Spiritual Cinema in September.

Looking for Covenant Group Ideas

As usual, this fall we will be opening up enrollment in Covenant Groups to the whole congregation and visitors. Every fall, we like to offer include ideas for groups—different topics or dates/times—that members would like to see. So, this is a call for your ideas! If you want to start a covenant group, or request times or dates for a group, send your thoughts ASAP to Stephanie Matz . We will begin preparing enrollment materials in the next few weeks, so we'd like to hear from you!

Meanwhile, save October 7. It's "Covenant Group Sunday" and you'll have a chance to learn more about these groups and how they work.

Ministerial Search Update



Mark your calendar for Sunday, September 30! The Ministerial Search Committee will be holding the first of several all-congregation “town hall” meetings immediately following the service. We’ll be sharing with you in detail the results of the recent survey and focus groups, what the committee has been working on during the summer, and the calendar of future events. There will also be time to respond to your questions about the survey and the search process. So please plan to join us for this informative event.

Part of the search process is the appointment of a “Negotiating Team.” This team creates an initial “offer” from Countryside Church to ministerial candidates—including financial packages, benefits, and agreements on other aspects of ministry at Countryside. The team will also conduct final negotiations with a minister we choose to call. The team is appointed by the Board, and is always made up of a board member, a search committee member, and a representative from the larger congregation. We’d like to thank the following Negotiating Team members for agreeing to serve on the team: Greg Blus, representing the Board of Trustees; Chris Smith, representing the Search Committee; Peggy Simonsen, representing the larger congregation

Peggy is also a member of the Personnel Committee, so her knowledge and expertise will be especially valuable.

More later - LOTS more. See you September 30.
...The Countryside Searchers

Church Staff Summer Schedule

Church Office Hours

Through Labor Day, the church office will be open on Mondays and Thursdays from 9 am - 2 pm.

Colleen’s Summer Schedule

Colleen’s office hours for July and August are Monday and Thursday, 10 am - 2 pm.

Don’s Summer Schedule

August 3 – 24: England - visiting Unitarian Churches and friends

August 26: Preaching at Countryside Church UU
With the exception of my time in England, I am “on-call” for all church emergencies; you can reach me by leaving a message on my church voice mail, 847-359-8440, ext. 2. In the event of a pastoral emergency while I am away, please contact the Lay Ministry Coordinators, Ken Bobbe or Trudy Kleckner. Ken and the church office will know how to contact me in the event of an emergency.

In Sympathy

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to John Denny, Music Director Emeritus, on the death on July 13 of his good friend Harris Haynes. John will host “A Visit with Harris” in Atherton Hall on Saturday, August 11 from 2 to 4 pm for anyone who would like an opportunity to view Harris’s artwork and to talk with John about Harris.

Thank You

Thanks to all for your contributions to the “Kids on Track” program at the Arlington Park race track. I saw how pleased the staff and kids were when I brought your ‘stuff’ in. ...Juli Cicarelli

Folk Dancing at Woodstock Church

Come join us August 17 and most third Fridays of the month from 7 to 7:50 pm at the Congregational Unitarian Church in Woodstock. You will be introduced to ethnic dances from around the world.

No experience necessary - just a desire to experience another culture’s music, ethnic traditions, and have fun while learning together.

Bring your family, friends, youngsters 9 yrs old and up. For more information, call 847-961-5253 after 7:30 pm.

focus

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Church Office Summer Hours *Mon and Thurs, 9am-2pm*

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

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.

Social Action Update

What Is Social Action At Countryside?

Social Action is the commitment of the members of this church to convert the word “service” in our covenant to action. The Social Action Committee strives for social justice, environmental justice and economic justice at the church-wide level, community-wide level and the international level. Whether donating our time to build a house for Habitat for Humanity, conducting a food drive, holding a fundraiser for Darfur or just driving one of our senior citizens to the doctor, we are committed to improve our world and the quality of life of all persons, wherever located and whatever their religion or political views. How do we determine what to do? You, the members of the church decide! Whether you want a regular commitment to the Social Action Committee or just a want to help out on a one-time basis only, please join our committee and join our yahoo group at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CCUU_social_action_committee

Corn Roast & Hootenanny Fundraiser September 8

Mark your calendar for September 8 at 5 p.m. so that you don't miss the ever-popular Corn Roast and Hootenanny. This is a great kick-off to the start of the regular church year.

This is a family event – fun for kids and adults alike. As always, there will be a feast of roasted corn, chicken, a variety of side salads, desserts and drinks. Dinner is followed by the Hootenanny lead by the musical talents of Tom Dempsey and Jeff Phillips.

If you are a new member, consider this a special invitation to join in the lively social life of Countryside. The Corn Roast is an annual event providing the perfect venue for greeting old friends (after a long summer) and meeting new members (soon to be new friends).

Once again the Social Action Committee is sponsoring this event. One-half of the net proceeds will be donated to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee Darfur Relief Fund. The Darfur Relief Fund aids refugees from and internally displaced people in the Darfur region of Sudan by providing shelter, water, sanitation, basic sleeping and kitchen materials; providing supplementary food to 50,000 children under the age of 5 and by providing education for school aged children and women rape victims.

The cost of the Corn Roast is \$15 for adults and \$5 for children age 12 and under. A special family ticket for \$50 is also available.

Watch your mail for a reservation form or stop by our table during coffee hour. You won't want to miss the fun!

Share-the-Plate Nominations

During the last 12 months, we have donated \$3,341.50 to various local groups (Palatine Township Food Pantry, Habitat for Humanity, Little City Foundation, etc.) in need. On August 19 at our next Social Action Committee meeting we will pick the local organizations participating in the share-the-plate collection for the next 12 months. Please nominate any deserving organization you would like to participate in the share-the-plate collection. Show up at the committee meeting or place your recommendation in the Social Action mailbox before Noon on August 19.

New UUSC Representatives

Nancy Cowger and Nancy Klein are our new representatives to the UUSC (Unitarian Universalist Service Committee). The UUSC advances human rights and social justice around the world, partnering with those who confront unjust power structures and mobilizing to challenge oppressive policies. You will be hearing more about the UUSC in the future.

Countryside Church Donates to UUSC

This year marks the first time that a \$500 donation to UUSC is included in our annual budget! This donation represents our Church's commitment of at least a dollar a member budgeted for the UUSC.

Countryside Church Will Host Crop Walk

Save the date! The annual CROP Walk for Hunger will be on Sunday October 14, 2007. Mark your calendars. This year Countryside will be hosting the community-wide walk and we plan to have a great turnout from our congregation. We need help recruiting walkers, publicizing this event, soliciting donations for refreshments, setting up the route, directing traffic, and set-up and registration on the day of the CROPwalk. The Social Action Committee will be working on this event along with the youth from RE and many church members. We will be sending out more information in the next month. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Jeanne Berger or Nancy Cowger.

Next Social Action Committee Meeting

The next meeting is August 19 at 12 noon in Classroom 1. Social Action Committee meetings are held the 3rd Sunday of each month. All are welcome to attend!

Great Plains Zen Center

The Great Plains Zen Center (GPZC) is a Soto Zen group, an affiliate of the White Plum Asanga. Their spiritual director is Susan Myoyu Andersen Roshi, who studied for over 20 years with Taizan Maezumi Roshi at the Zen Center of Los Angeles, receiving dharma transmission in 1995. They sit meditation regularly at Countryside Church. For more information, see the bulletin board opposite the church office and visit www.greatplainszen.org.

Intro to Zen Practice Workshops

This half-day workshop is offered monthly and provides practitioners with basic, practical information on how to meditate, how to establish regular home and daily Zen practice, the aims of practice, and what opportunities for additional or more advanced practice are offered. Attendance at an introductory workshop is required of anyone who would like to become a full-time member of the Great Plains Zen Center. An optional, informal lunch will be provided. First-time workshop participants are asked to make a \$25 donation. Upcoming workshops will be held at Countryside Church from 8:30 – 11:30 am on August 18, September 22, October 20. For more details, please see the GPZC website.

Zen and the Arts Workshops

The Great Plains Zen Center will be holding a new series of workshops this fall. They will take place at Countryside Church from 1-4 pm on the dates listed below. For details or to register for a workshop, please visit the GPZC website. Cost is \$25 per workshop (\$15 for students, seniors and special circumstances).

September 22: Embody the Golden Wind: Zen and Poetry Writing Workshop with John Gendo Wolff

October 20: Introduction to Buddhist Art and Architecture with Rebecca Mott

November 10: Creating a Miniature World: Storymaking with Pictures and Words with Elizabeth Tenho Allen

December 8: Brush Mind: Inkpainting as Spiritual Practice with Edyta Wojcik

Living the Second Half of Life Quotes from the Worship Service led by Sharon and Dan Wiseman on July 22

For age is opportunity no less
Than youth itself, though in another dress,
And as the evening twilight fades away
The sky is filled with stars, invisible by day.
~Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

And the day came when the risk to remain tight in a bud
was more painful than the risk it took to blossom.
~Anais Nin

We cannot live the afternoon of life according to the
program of life's morning – for what was great in the
morning will be little at evening. And what in morning was
true will at evening have become a lie. ~Carl Jung

Despite the blandishments of popular culture, the
goal of life is not happiness but meaning. ~James Hollis

What usually has the strongest psychic effect on the
child is the life which the parents... have not lived.
~Carl Jung

Is the life you are living too small for your soul's desire?
~James Hollis

Why do you believe that you have to hide so much, from
others, from yourself? ~James Hollis

Upcoming Meetings and Events

REMINDER: This calendar does not reflect rentals of CCUU space. To avoid conflicts, please schedule all events with the Church Office.

Fri, 8/3	Drum Circle	8:00 pm
Sun, 8/5	Open Forum Discussion	9:15 am
	Spirit Play Training	12:00 pm
Tues, 8/7	Program Council Meeting	7:00 pm
Weds, 8/8	Finance Committee Meeting	7:00 pm
Sat, 8/11	Memorial Reception for Harris Haynes	2:00 pm
Sun, 8/12	Open Forum Discussion	9:15 am
	IT Committee Meeting	9:30 am
Weds, 8/15	Adult Faith Development Council Mtg	7:00 pm
Sun, 8/19	Open Forum Discussion	9:15 am
	Social Action Meeting	12:00 pm
Tues, 8/21	Board of Trustees Meeting	7:00 pm
Weds, 8/22	CROP Walk Meeting	7:00 pm
Thurs, 8/23	Choir Rehearsal	7:15 pm
	Men's Covenant Group	7:30 pm
Sat, 8/25	RE Teacher Orientation	9:00 am
Sun, 8/26	Open Forum Discussion	9:15 am
Mon, 8/27	Focus Newsletter Submission Deadline	9:00 am
Weds, 8/29	Wednesday Kinship Circle	7:00 pm
Thurs, 8/30	Choir Rehearsal	7:15 pm
Sun, 9/2	Open Forum Discussion	9:15 am
Mon, 9/3	LABOR DAY - CHURCH CLOSED	
Thurs, 9/6	Choir Rehearsal	7:15 pm
Sat, 9/8	Corn Roast & Hootenanny	5:00 pm

COUNTRYSIDE CHURCH

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