

Upcoming Worship Services ~ Sunday Worship begins 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 19 All-Church Earth Day Service

Colleen Vahey

This is an All-Church Service: Children and Youth will attend services with their families. Preschool-age children will go directly to their classroom, and childcare will be available in the nursery for infants and younger children.

Share the Plate: Half of the cash collected in the morning offering will be donated to Citizens for Conservation.

**April 26 Practicing Covenant
Joining Sunday**

Rebecca Froom

Unitarian Universalism is a free faith that values covenant over creed. What does it mean to live in covenantal community? How do we create and practice covenant?

Rebecca Froom, who hails from Philadelphia, PA, is a first year Master of Divinity student at Meadville Lombard Theological School. She studied Anthropology and Religion as an undergraduate and worked for three years as a Director of Religious Education in Tucson, AZ. Rebecca has a strong interest in social justice work, youth ministry, building community and the performing arts.

This will be a Family Service - first 20 minutes in the Sanctuary for grades 2-8.

May 3 Stranger in Strange Land

Rev. Hilary Krivchenia

This is Rev. Hilary's "auction sermon" purchased by David Cohen at the Time & Talent Auction last fall.

May 10 Evolution and the First Mothers

Rev. Hilary Krivchenia

This will be a Family Service - first 20 minutes in the Sanctuary for grades 2-8.

The service will include Child Dedications.

Installation Celebration Dinner!

Everyone and all ages are invited to celebrate Rev. Hilary's Installation at a Community Potluck Dinner on Saturday, April 18, 6-9 pm, in Atherton Hall. Dinner will be followed by live jazz music featuring The Buddha Poodles.

If your last name begins with A-I, please bring salad (not pasta). If you last name begins J-S, please bring entree, soup, or stew. If you last name begins T-Z, please bring dessert. In honor of Hilary, please bring vegetarian dishes and no pasta.

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*Countryside Church
Unitarian Universalist*

*requests the honor of your presence
at the Installation of*

*The Reverend
Hilary Landau Krivchenia
as the settled minister of our congregation*

*Sunday, April 19, 2009
5 o'clock in the afternoon
A reception will follow*

The Minister's Muse

Most years my Aunt JoAnn and Uncle Irving come from North Carolina to join us for Passover. They actually skip their temple Seder and join Unitarian Universalists. This year they were torn - come for the Seder or come for the Installation? In passing, my Aunt said, "we're worried that the weather will still be cold and travel will be difficult." I laughed, saying that it was April and spring would be in full force. They decided that they'd visit for the Installation and not the Seder. As I looked out the window of Atherton Hall at the falling snow and Jeff Phillips asked if I could create a version of "I'm dreaming of a white Passover" to sing on the spot, I thought that I might never tell my aunt about her prescience. I still might not - unless she reads this. I mean - it couldn't happen two years in a row. Today, as the sky is overcast and the wind chilly, I'm keenly aware that the weather is having trouble getting with the calendar and catching up with spring. I, on the other hand, feel like spring is everywhere, not the least, in my heart.

This month is so filled with celebrations that I feel certain that this congregation is in certain springtime. That doesn't mean that our individual lives don't face challenges. But the sense of springtime eases the struggle a little.

The Seder was great. I'm relieved to have enriched a tradition that already existed here. The warmth of community was evident. Easter went well, too. We're fortunate to have our gifted Music Director, Jeff Hamrick, who can bring great sounds from the piano and from the voices of congregation and choir and who collaborates to make the music and words flow together in a powerful blend. Our Director of Religious Education, Colleen Vahey, did an outstanding job making Easter interesting for kids while also engaging adults. This week, I attend the Palatine Township meeting to honor and award the Making the Most of Your Money Program. Then Installation festivities this weekend! We'd better be ready to blossom — and we are. The rally after church on Easter was inspiring. It can seem burdensome to have to raise money each year - we have no distant fund that makes our church life possible - but each year the fact is that we have an important opportunity to discern meaning in our gathered life, to put our money where our principles are, and to truly empower this faith to make a difference in our lives and in the larger world. Each year we have that chance. This year I'm grateful and impressed with the visionary decision that our Board made to offer a pledge guarantee. When Hyundai came out with a promise to take back the car and not affect the credit of those who lost jobs that seemed impressive. When another UU congregation, inspired by that, decided to offer that if a member lost their job during the year and asked for their paid pledge back they could receive it - it impressed me. It took the Hyundai pledge a step further. Now I know that few will actually ask for pledges back, even when jobs are lost, because they know that much other support comes from this congregation. But this way no one needs to hunker down in fear of the future. We can all pledge with vision and generosity. That turned out to be totally the case, as most people at Sunday's rally raised their pledges. Mark and I raised ours by more than 30 percent. It's a pledge to our future together and a pledge to our larger movement. I feel great about the groundswell of support for increasing that came from the congregation. Some of it, no doubt, is that people are coming to realize that this place is more central to their lives and that we have had a history of under pledging as a congregation and a movement that we are ready to reverse - the guide from the UUA really helps to clarify how to pledge. But I think that most of the increase comes from a collective sense that we are in the midst and on the cusp of great things happening here. This place is embodying ever more fully the fruit of our Unitarian Universalist faith. I feel a great flowering here. I am grateful and glad to be among such generous and visionary folk. I am looking forward to the future - and more - I am smelling the roses here and now - in this indomitable spring.

Do you like to plan year-round fun?

We are seeking Countryside's 2009-10 Fundraising Coordinator! With a team of assistants, use your creativity and event planning talents to build community and raise money for Countryside's operations. Continue traditions such as the long-loved Time and Talent Auction and Pancake breakfast. Create memorable events such as this year's new Soup-er Sundays and Bingo! To express interest or get more information, contact Greg Blus.

Save the Date: "Balance the Budget Bowl"

Not as in Super Bowl or Rose Bowl but as in bowling! Yes, bowling...something new and fun AND our final opportunity to close the gap between income and expenses in the current year's budget. So save Saturday, May 23 for an evening of games, food and entertainment at Brunswick Zone. And by the way...you do not need to know how to bowl. There will be a few folks on hand to give pointers to beginners. Come for the fun and camaraderie. More details in future Focus newsletters.

Social Action Update

On July 3, We Want You, Not Your Money!

Help us raise \$420 for The Citizens Foundation, USA (TCFUSA) by serving pizza at the food tent during Arlington Heights Frontier Days Festival. Sign-up for one or both of the Friday, July 3 shifts: 11:30 am to 3 pm, 3 pm to 7 pm. Eight volunteers are need for each shift. TCFUSA is a volunteer-driven charity organization supporting education for underprivileged children in neglected communities of Pakistan. TCF schools are open to all children regardless of their race, color, creed, religion or location. Tolerance for race, religion and ethnicity is strongly inculcated in their students, who are encouraged to become open-minded, peace-loving and socially responsible members of society. So whether you always wanted to be a “carny” working a “grab joint” or just want to help make the world a better place, sign up for this “we want you, not your money” fundraiser. If all 16 slots are quickly filled, we might be able to add another shift and raise even more money for TCFUSA. Please contact David Cohen to sign up; be sure to indicate which shift you will work.

Next Social Action Committee Meeting

All are invited to our next meeting at Noon on Sunday, April 19 in classroom 1 (the 4th/5th grade classroom). Meetings are limited to one hour. Social Action Committee meetings are held the 3rd Sunday of each month. Join our social action committee yahoo group at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CCUU_social_action_committee.

GoodSearch for Church

What if Countryside Church UU earned a penny every time you searched the Internet? Or how about if a percentage of every purchase you made online went to support our cause? Well, now it can!

GoodSearch.com is a new Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Use it just as you would any search engine, get quality search results from Yahoo, and watch the donations add up!

GoodShop.com is a new online shopping mall which donates up to 37% of each purchase to your favorite cause! Hundreds of great stores including Amazon, Target, Gap, Best Buy, ebay, Macy's and Barnes & Noble have teamed up with GoodShop and every time you place an order, you'll be supporting your favorite cause.

Just go to www.goodsearch.com and be sure to enter 'Countryside Church UU' as the non-profit you want to support. And, be sure to spread the word!

Book Discussions

Book Circle

Join a lively discussion on Sunday, May 17 at 6:30 pm in room 6. We will discuss The Age of the Unthinkable: Why the New World Disorder Constantly Surprises Us and What We Can Do About It by Joshua Cooper Ramo.

This is the first book that truly explains WHY our world is changing and gives us the HOPE that the world can be a better place shaped by technology, innovative leaders and great ideas. The book synthesizes the key people, forces, beliefs and trends that are shaping the economy, politics and religion. It provides a whole new framework for understanding how different societies will come together to create a new and positive world order. (from Amazon.com)

Last Mondays Book Group

On April 27 at 7 pm in the Stokes Room, we will discuss Tepper Isn't Going Out by Calvin Trillin AND Amsterdam by Ian McEwan. Yes, 2 selections with nothing in common other than that they are works of fiction and are each approx. 200 pages long; we've been assured they're both relatively easy, quick reads and enjoyed by both women and men.

On June 1, we'll discuss The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Shaffer & Barrows.

focus

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Church Office Hours *Mon-Thurs: 9am-2pm*

Fri:9am-Noon

Minister *Hilary Landau Krivchenia*

Director of Religious Education *Colleen Vahey*

Music Director & Pianist *Jeffrey Hamrick*

Minister Emeritus *Dr. Rupert L. Lovely*

Community-Based Minister *Dr. C. Scot Giles*

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.

Annual Pledge Drive 2009-2010 - Stewardship Ministry Update

The Annual Pledge Drive has officially kicked off with the Celebration Rally this past Sunday. The event was a success in so many ways. We shared in coffee, cake, and cookies decorated by our youth. We celebrated accomplishments affecting our church, the local community, and beyond. We sang together and we pledged our support of Countryside Church together. As of this time, approximately 20% of our members have made a pledge for the 2009-10 church year. Despite expectations that our pledging could suffer because of the economy, almost every pledge made has increased over the prior year. In fact, the average increase is nearly 22% higher. There are certainly as many reasons for why pledging levels increased as there are people pledging, but here are the ones that I think are most significant:

1. We're providing specific recommendations on giving levels which are based on UUA Giving Guidelines. A convenient chart has been provided in the previous issue of the FOCUS and is included in the booklet handed out at the Celebration Rally. If you didn't attend the Rally, you'll be receiving a copy in the mail.
2. We're offering what I believe to be the single greatest show of support for members of our church community ever and it's referred to as the "Pledge Promise". We are inviting and even asking our members to "go out on a limb" with regards to increasing pledges of financial support up to the UUA suggested levels, but the Pledge Promise in essence says: "We'll catch you if you fall". Here's the gist of it: "We recognize the current economic uncertainty may make it difficult for some members of our community to make a financial commitment right now. Yet we also realize that it is in times like these when support of our religious community is most important. Thus to protect OUR community and YOUR financial security, this year we are offering this PROMISE: If anyone in our community is laid off during the 2009-2010 church year we offer to refund their pledge payments for the year if they so wish."
3. Our church community is vibrant, very relevant in our lives, and we feel a commitment to sustaining it.
4. The inspiring testimonies from the Myren family, Lisa Bohne, Gary LaBedz, Greg Blus, and Greg Sweigert about why they give to Countryside Church.
5. And last but not least, we have a settled minister who is being "installed" this weekend!!

You have an assigned Stewardship Minister that will be in contact with you requesting time for a face to face meeting. While collecting pledge forms is part of their duty, it's really a rather small part. Our hope is that these gatherings, whether in your kitchen or out at coffee shop, will build or strengthen the relationships we have with each other. They'll provide an opportunity to get to know each other by talking about our hopes and dreams for the church community, what we enjoy, and about what each of us personally values and is sustained by at Countryside. I hope you'll make the time to meet with your Stewardship Minister. He or she might be a person that will catch you if you fall—or maybe you'll be asked to catch them if they fall. Either way, wouldn't you want to get to know them?

In Faith,

Mike Gilley, Co-Chair, Stewardship Ministry/Annual Pledge Drive

Reserve Your Place in RE for 2009-10!

The RE Council invites you to sign up now to be a part of next year's exciting religious education program. Children and youth will be exploring world religions and digging deep into the 7th UU principle (the interdependent web of all existence) with a special unit on living sustainably rich lives. Whether you're a classroom teacher, social action project leader, RE greeter or floater, we trust you'll discover that when you work with our children and youth, you often receive much more than you give! We welcome your participation and support in this important ministry of our congregation. Questions? Please contact Lisa Hagenbuch or Linda Berry, RE Council co-chairs.

Fair Trade Products for sale

Once each month, Fair Trade products are being sold along with books from the Book Cart, which our jr. high youth currently staff; the next date will be May 3. Olive oil is \$20 per bottle and comes from the same supplier as the olive oil sold at the fair trade fair held in December and is a larger size. Coffee and tea will also be sold. There is a slight mark up on coffee & tea as a fundraiser for the operating budget; the prices are still reasonable for organic fair trade products. Also, we are obtaining the coffee & tea through Equal Exchange's interfaith program, so 20 cents per pound of coffee will go to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) at no cost to us. Chocolate items will be offered in the fall.

Adult Faith Development (AFD) News

Journeys Retreat - Fearlessness: The Ground We Walk On, The Path We Take

Join us on a journey led by Rev. Hilary Krivchenia to find strength, clarity and direction in disordered times. The retreat will be held at the beautiful University of St. Mary of the Lake conference center in Mundelein. You have the option of overnight accommodations or commuter rates. We will begin on Friday, May 15, 5pm, and conclude Saturday, May 16, 4pm. Registration fees include meals and refreshments.

Please complete the registration form included below or pick one up in the pamphlet rack or from the AFD table in Atherton Hall. Place it in the folder on the counter in the church office by April 30. Please include a check made payable to Countryside Church. Due to our financial commitment to St. Mary's, a partial refund is only available through April 30.

Waging Peace

Rev. Hilary is very excited to be hosting Daoud Nassar, a peace-making Palestinian olive farmer, on Thursday, April 23, 7:30-9 pm in the Sanctuary. Nassar will share his stories of "People Building Bridges" through his family's project, Tent of Nations. Rev. Hilary harvested olives on Nassar's farm when she traveled to Palestine.

Nassar will be accompanied by Mark Braverman and Bob Plitt. Mark Braverman has traveled to Israel and Palestine with the Fellowship of Reconciliation's Interfaith Peace-Builders delegation and has served as co-leader of the delegation (the same group with which Rev. Hilary traveled). Bob Plitt is a retired man who was so moved by Nassar that he has been back to help with the crops and with the peacemaking work.

Calendar Correction

Please note, the Common Ground lecture originally scheduled for Sunday, April 26, has been cancelled and will be rescheduled in July. Our speaker, Jim Kenney, Executive Director of Common Ground, accidentally scheduled two lectures at the same time. More details to follow in the next few weeks. Thank you!

Parents of Young Children: Let's Start a Playgroup!

Are you a mom looking to get together with other like-minded UU moms during the day? Would you like to get the kids together to play and have some adult interaction? I'd like to start a weekly play group (in my home or rotating) for toddlers & infants under age 2 that would run from 3:30-5 on a day that we could all agree on. If interested, please contact Jennifer Alton at 847-963-8167 or jenniferalton1@yahoo.com.

Journeys 2009 Registration

Name(s) _____
Address _____
Phone _____ Email _____

	Shared Room (2 people/room)	Private Room (1 person/room)	Commuter (no room)
Room	\$60	\$95	n/a
Meals, Conference Rooms & Supplies	\$55	\$55	\$55
Cost per person*	\$115	\$150	\$55

*Scholarship assistance available upon request; additional donations for AFD scholarships are appreciated

Registration request:

_____ Shared Room - If you are sharing a room with someone who is registering separately, please indicate name of that person: _____

_____ Single Room

_____ Commuter (includes all meals and activities)

**Please return by April 30 to the church office;
include a check payable to Countryside Church and write "Journeys" on the memo line.**

Upcoming Meetings and Events

A complete calendar of all events and meetings held in the building is on the website: www.ccuu.org. If your church meeting is not listed there, please fill out a room reservation form and submit it to the church office.

Thu 4/16	5:30pm	Path to Membership Class	Sun 4/26	12pm	OWL (7-9)
	6pm	Pride Youth - contact LINKS, 847-441-6191		7pm	Zen Meditation, www.greatplainszen.org
	7pm	"Thinking Scripture" class	Mon 4/27	7pm	Last Mondays Book Discussion Group
	7:15pm	Church Choir Rehearsal	Tue 4/28	7pm	Personnel Ctte Mtg
Fri 4/17	10am	Daytime Kinship Circle	Wed 4/29	6pm	Making the Most of Our Money classes
Sat 4/18	6pm - 9pm	Installation Celebration Dinner		7pm	Wednesday Kinship Circle
Sun 4/19	9am	OWL (Kdgtm-1st)	Thu 4/30	6pm	Pride Youth - contact LINKS, 847-441-6191
	9am	Buddhist Dharma Group		7:15pm	Church Choir Rehearsal
	9:15am	Open Forum Discussion	Sat 5/2	10am	Sacred Mvmt Dance Group
	12pm	Social Action Committee Meeting	Sun 5/3	9am	OWL (Kdgtm-1st)
	12pm	Nominating Ctte Mtg		9am	Buddhist Dharma Group
	5pm	Installation Svc for Rev. Hilary		9:15am	Open Forum Discussion
	7pm	Zen Meditation, www.greatplainszen.org		11:45am	Meet the Minister
Mon 4/20	7pm	PFLAG Palatine Meeting		12pm	RE Council Mtg
Tue 4/21	7pm	Board of Trustees Meeting		12pm	OWL (7-9)
	7pm	Experiencing God Covenant Group		4:30pm	Compassionate Communication Cov. Grp
Wed 4/22	6pm	Making the Most of Our Money classes		7pm	Compassionate Communication Cov. Grp
	7pm	Worship Council Meeting	Artist's Way & Movement for Fun		
Thu 4/23	6pm	Pride Youth - contact LINKS, 847-441-6191	The Artist's Way and Movement for Fun Covenant		
	7:30pm	Daoud Nassar, Palestinian Olive Farmer	Groups will not be meeting again until September.		
Fri 4/24-Sun 4/26		District Assembly in Waukesha WI	Upcoming Focus Deadlines		
Sun 4/26	9am	OWL (Kdgtm-1st)	April 27 & May 11 @ 9 am		
	9:15am	Open Forum Discussion	Submit articles via e-mail to ccuu@ccuu.org .		
	12pm	Rainbow Friends Meeting			
	12pm	Membership Mtg			

Return Service Requested
Time-dated Material - Prompt Delivery Requested

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