
Upcoming Worship Services ~ 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.

Information about upcoming worship services can also be found on the website (www.ccuu.org) under the 'About Us' menu.

Sept 20 Days of Awe: Honest Reckoning

Rev. Hilary Krivchenia

Knowing ourselves and being in the Presence of that which knows us.

Religious Education Classes for Preschool through High School Begin

Share the Plate: Half of the cash collected in the offering will be donated to PADS.

An Affirmation by Greg Sweigert will be part of the service. Greg is a life long Unitarian and has been a member of Countryside since 2004. As of July, 2009, he assumed the duties of Treasurer.

Sept 27 Pulpit Guest: Michael Durall

See letter on page 5

Oct 4 UU Association Sunday: Growing Our Diversity

Rev. Hilary Krivchenia

Bring-a-Friend to Church Day: invite your friends and neighbors to join you for the service and a reception to follow.

Oct 11 Cultural Wars

Rem Stokes

The United States has two different value systems. One Biblical based and the other federal papers based. Throughout history, these have often been in conflict and they continue to be until this day.

Oct 18 to be announced

Rev. Hilary Krivchenia

Share the Plate: Half of the cash collected in the offering will be donated to the Palatine Township Food Pantry.

Oct 25 to be announced

Rev. Hilary Krivchenia

Inside This Issue...

- p.2 Minister's Muse...
- p.3 In Memoriam... In Sympathy... Lay Ministry: We're Here for You... Circle Supper Sign-up...
- p.4 Join Us for a Special Weekend: Sept 26 & 27... Getting to Know Our Newer Members...
- p.5 Religious Education (RE) Council News...
- p.6-7 Religious Education Prospectus 2009-10...
- p.8 Adult Faith Development: Enlightenment Intensives, Journey Inward, Book Discussion, Behind the Mask, Agnosticism-Humanism-Atheism Group, Movies with Meaning, Book Circle, Gong Meditation... Spend Halloween at Countryside!
- p.9 Book Circle Hits the Road... GoodSearch for Church... Personnel Committee Update...
- p.10 Networked Committee Meetings... Headlines from Program Council... Fair Trade at Countryside... Weeding Needed...
- p.11 Upcoming Meetings & Events... Chicago Area UU Churches (CAUUC)...

Meet the Minister

Once a month, visitors and new folks with questions about Countryside Church and Unitarian Universalism are welcome to come meet with me. Come join me in the sanctuary after the greeting line has finished and you have gotten a cup of coffee or tea. I would like to meet you and have a chance to connect and to answer questions. I'm eager to welcome you!

Meet the Minister Dates for 2009-10 are: Sept 27, Oct 18, Nov 8, Dec 13, Jan 17, Feb 21, Mar 21, Apr 11, May 23, Jun 6.

Upcoming Focus Deadlines

Sept. 28, Oct. 26, Nov. 23

Submit articles by 9 am to ccuu@ccuu.org

We are moving to a monthly newsletter. In between *Focus* issues, updates will be sent out via email & via US mail for those who do not have email and information from *The Sunday Times* blue insert will be posted on the website.

The Minister's Muse

After the service this Sunday, I stepped outside and into the garden at the side of the church where the tall, jagged stone is - the stone that Bob Atherton said that he thought of as "his" rock. I took the bowl and vase of water that we had poured together during the service and poured it out gently over the stone and onto the ground. I enjoy the ritual of pouring the water onto our grounds - as though pouring something vital from each of us into our spiritual ground - a tangible symbol of the depth of feeling that each person brings here. It was a joy to be at the potluck and to see all the connection between people. One thing that I noticed was that we were full to overflowing. The reality is that once we have reached that capacity it is harder for people to feel really welcome. Harder to find a place to sit at the very least. It was heartening when a crew of folks went into the choir room and got out more chairs to make more room. So many interesting new people are something here that I don't want us to lose out on the chance to get to know them and to share what we have found here.

Even more - come back I am already aware of the vibrant energy here. This is one creative congregation. We have so many exciting new things coming up. For one there is the visit from the well known and well respected consultant, Mike Durall, whose work I have read for years - but who is now going to be with us to help us transform our visions into realities. It's time. Then we have the team that is helping, with the help of the Board, to introduce the Covenant of Right Relation. This will be an amazing and positive step that the congregation can take together - not to address conflict or repair past wrongs - this congregation has a pretty healthy way of working things out - but with this common sense covenant we will have clearer ways of expressing what we hope for as a community of love, service, and faith. And we will have a way of sharing that as each new person becomes a part of this community. We will be expanding our Covenant Group program to include more groups which are not based upon one interest or another but upon a shared desire for connection, spiritual growth, and groundedness in our larger church community. I will be working with Carol Sweigert and Rita DeBoer on this. If you have any questions about it - please give me a call. We are just getting things organized. The Program Council - which has an interesting article elsewhere in this Focus, is also getting stronger each year - and this year we are going to try a monthly meeting and a more deliberate process of supporting leadership and even of developing congregational leadership. It should be an interesting year and Laura Mandell and I chair together.

Well I could go on with details - but I just suggest that you read your Focus and your Sunday Times insert in your order of service. This will be a time of real creativity and good work - anyone can take part!

I also know that this change of season - like many - has brought losses and challenges to many in our congregational community. Deaths, job losses, serious illnesses, empty nests - we are a community of very human people experiencing the sharp edge of being human.... Together. Of course we have a wonderful Lay Ministry Group and I love to meet with folks and offer my own support as well. But we truly need to magnify this - to encourage everyone here to see the precious life and the vulnerable struggle in each person here and to reach out - to know and to be known - to share of yourself and make room for new people to reach out and feel at home here and to share the burdens they may have brought with them. Oh - this will be a great year. We have gathered in, mingled water, poured it into our ground and now all that remains is that we take the real adventure - more adventurous even than some of the exotic trips that were taken - the adventure of community building and faith deepening. I am, once again, feeling blessed to be here to be with this amazing congregation. I am once again on the edge of my seat to see what comes next - but this year, I am simply excited - we will do so much, so much good together this year.

See you soon!

Hilary

Lay Ministry Program

We Are Here For You!

The goal of the Lay Ministry Program is to provide ministry and support to members of the congregation in times of transition and crisis. Our work supports the work of our Minister, the Rev. Krivchenia. Our role is to be a presence in times of loss, such as in the recent death of Bob Atherton. Everyone who has been around Bob and Marty Atherton know what a loss this is in our congregational community - a friend and a pillar of the church. We are available, if you need to talk through the effect of this loss on your life. All conversations are confidential within Lay Ministry. For members to access Lay Ministry, please contact Reverend Hilary or any member of the Lay Ministry Team.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with us!

The Reverend Hilary Krivchenia and The Lay Ministry Team : Ken Bobbe, Richard Chay, Larry Frank, Trudy Kleckner, Jane Matthews, Joyce Swedlund, Kim Tilford, Dan Yokas.

Circle Supper Sign-up for Fall

It's time to sign up so that you can savor fun and varied dining with new and long-time Countryside friends and friends-to-be. The four Circle Suppers in the Fall make it easy to dine, chat, and laugh with Countryside visitors and members.

Dinner dates are October 17, November 14, December 12, and January 9-second Saturdays except third Saturday in October.

On one of these evenings you serve as host(ess), setting the tone, providing the entrée (simple through gourmet-you decide), and requesting an appetizer, salad, dessert, or other menu item from your guests. The other three evenings you are a guest. Dinners are kept to 8 or fewer participants, with different dining groups each month. Newcomers are guests for the first couple of suppers, then hosts later on. Singles can arrange to host together or ask to be matched for hosting.

Sign-up after services on September 20 or 27, or contact Marty Farrington.

In Memoriam

Robert Curry Atherton July 16, 1927 - September 6, 2009

The memorial service for Bob will be held here at the church on Thursday, September 17 at 6:30 pm and will be followed by a buffet meal. In order to help you in expressing your feelings about Bob Atherton, the Lay Ministers will have a special Memory Book available after the Memorial Service where you can write down your thoughts and remembrances of Bob.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Narsad, or your favorite charity.

For those who would like to send cards to Martha and/or Bob & Martha's son John:

Martha Atherton	John Atherton, Room 303A
378 Meadow Lane	Vibra Specialty Hospital
Palatine, IL 60067	10300 NE Hancock
	Portland, OR 97220

In Sympathy

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Renee and Andrew Cranberg and their family on the death of Andy's mother, Norma Elaine Cranberg, on Sept. 12.

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Mary Henske and Armando Pauker and their family on the death of Mary's mother, Dorothy Henske, on Sept. 12.

focus

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Fri: 9am-Noon

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Minister Emeritus *Dr. Ruppert 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.

Join Us for Part of a Special Weekend September 26-27

Dear Countryside Members and Friends,

We have a special visitor coming to Countryside during the weekend of September 26-27. Our guest, Michael Durall, is a noted parish consultant and the author of five books about congregational life. The hallmark of Mike's work is helping congregations develop tailor-made plans for the future. We've invited him to help us put into action some of the long range planning that has been done over the past few years.

Save the Date!

On Saturday, September 26, Mike will lead four sessions focusing on:

- * Membership: Defining and initiating "integrity of membership"; 9:15 - 10:30 am
- * Stewardship: Giving from the heart and not to the budget; 10:45 am- 12:00 pm
- * Lunch and open discussion; 12:00 - 1:00 pm
- * Finances and a discussion about the proposed building campaign; 1:00 - 2:00 pm; and
- * Long-range planning and outreach: keys to the future; 2:30 - 3:15 pm

These sessions are open to all, and we encourage members and friends to attend at least one session. Childcare will be provided.

In addition, Mike will be in our pulpit on Sunday morning, September 27, and will host a 30 - 40 minute discussion following the service. Everyone is encouraged to attend, and childcare will be provided.

Caring for the Present, Building for the Future

During this weekend and for a few days following, Mike will also be working with Countryside on the proposed capital campaign, which is needed to fund current and future projects that will keep our facilities and our programs thriving.

For several years now, several skilled volunteer facilities team members (Paul Sneddon, Andy Richards, Mark Huston, and others) have been monitoring our building and facilities from floor to ceiling so that we can better predict upcoming maintenance needs. Our building is aging, and needs some tender loving care.

They are also helping us identify solutions that are both cost-effective and environmentally friendly. Some work has been recently completed, including the new roof over the Sanctuary. This new roofing material has many benefits, including durability, energy-efficiency, and insulation. It's white, so it will effectively reduce air conditioning costs and greenhouse gas emissions. The idea is simple: white reflects heat instead of absorbing it. And - no more roof leaks - at least not in the sanctuary, where the work is complete.

But, we still have a list of critical building projects, and it's time to put a long-term plan into motion to tend to the building and our programs. That's why we are beginning efforts to raise money that will support these and other building needs.

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend one of the sessions with Mike Durall.

If you have any questions, please contact Greg Blus, Paul Sneddon, or Reverend Hilary Krivchenia. If you'd like to learn more about Mike's work in the meantime, please visit www.vitalcongregations.com.

Getting to Know Our Newer Members

Ava Whaley and James Reynolds met on the internet, and Ava now teaches a workshop at Harper College about safe and successful dating through the computer.

Ava grew up in the Philadelphia area and was raised in the Reform Judaism religion. After being confirmed, "I didn't think about religion for 30 years", she says. She received her Bachelor's and Master's from Temple University, and her teaching education from St. Joseph's also in Philadelphia. At present, she has her own home-based business, working as a writer of marketing materials. James grew up in the Rockford area as a Catholic, was adopted by a Lutheran family, and describes himself as a Christian Unitarian. He went to the University of Iowa and works as a software engineer. James has two daughters in their 20s and loves astronomy and movies.

Ava belongs to a book club and takes ICL classes at Roosevelt. They both love golf as well as hiking and camping, which they did recently in Colorado. "Yes, we actually slept in tents," she says. They were members at the North Shore UU Church for 5 years. They are proud owners of a 22-1/2-year-old former show cat, a Maine Coon named Aldo, whom they adopted about 5 years ago. Ava walks him daily on a leash in spite of his arthritis, and she claims he is very spoiled but very loving.

RE Council News

Have You Registered for Religious Education?

It's essential that we have current information for ALL young people in our building (infants-age 18), including: parent and emergency contact numbers, insurance information, allergies and medications. Registration also helps us keep you informed of upcoming RE classes and events. Forms were distributed via e-mail last week, and hard copies are available at the RE Welcome table. Please return completed forms by Sept. 27 to designated boxes in the main office or RE Welcome table, or mail to the church office. Thank you!

This Sunday

It's time to roll-up-our sleeves and have fun! Please wear clothes that can get dirty on Sunday, Sept. 20 - all children ages 3 and older in RE will be invited to help create a mural with painted handprints.

Safety Procedures

To help ensure the safety for all children entrusted in our care, we have new safety procedures that began Sept. 13:

* The RE entrance doors will be locked after 10:35am each Sunday. If you arrive at church after 10:35, please enter via the main doors where ushers will be there to greet you.

* Assigned RE Floater each Sunday to provide an extra adult presence in the hallways - welcome visitors, and help with supplies and safety awareness

We've assigned one family each Sunday to fill the role of RE Floater. If you're one of the families on this year's schedule, you received an e-mail last week with a complete description and schedule, and will receive a reminder e-mail the week prior to serving. This role is vitally important, and we thank you for your commitment!

Coffee Hour

Please note that we're moving to an intergenerational coffee hour this fall. Children in the Chalice Children (infants & toddlers) and Spirit Play classes (ages 3-Kindergarten) will continue to have snack in their classroom as part of the morning routine. All ages are invited to enjoy refreshments in Atherton Hall after RE classes finish at 11:45am.

RE Sign-in/Pick-up

Please note that sign-in for RE classes begins at 10:20. All children in Grades 4 and younger need to be picked up at their classroom by a parent/guardian, or arrangements made with classroom teacher if alternate plans are needed. Photographs will be taken of approved adult/s to pick-up children in the Chalice Children and Spirit Play classes. Pick-up, regardless of the length

of the worship service, is at 11:45. It's vitally important that we honor the pick-up times - to respect the generous time of our volunteer teachers, and to ensure children have a positive classroom experience. Thank you for your cooperation!

RE Supplies

We ask each family with a child in RE to bring the following items to church in September:

- Non-perishable food items - pretzels, crackers, etc. (Chalice Children & Spirit Play)
- Hand sanitizer (1st-2nd Grade)
- Hand soap (3rd-7th Grade)
- Paper towels & Kleenex (8th grade & Senior High)

Thank you for helping us reduce the supply costs of running our RE program! Please place items in the baskets near the RE Welcome Table beginning Sept. 20.

Interdependent Web Photo Mosaic

Children from the Summer RE classes, "Nature Navigators: Exploring the Web of Life" unveiled their beautiful photo mosaic last Sunday. Each week our young people created collages related to the week's learning, and captured these collages with photographs to share with others. Look for the colorful mosaic in the RE lobby this Sunday! Many thanks to Melanie Schikore-Andina for coordinating this wonderful mosaic!

Service is Our Prayer Wall

Check out the new photos on our "Service is Our Prayer" wall! There are great pictures from some of last year's experiences - "Sleep Out Saturday" to raise awareness and funds for area homeless shelters; Pride Parade in Chicago; Fall Youth Conference - where youth made fleece blankets for the Linus Project and learned from speakers with the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless. What new experiences will we share this year? We look forward to helping our children and youth continue living their beliefs in action!

Parents of Young Children Playdate

Please join us for fun and fellowship at our Fall Playdate and Potluck on Saturday, October 3, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm at Plum Grove Reservoir Picnic Shelter, 1100 W. Algonquin Rd (inside the Harper College campus). Kids can enjoy the playground while adults socialize in the picnic shelter. In case of rain, we will meet in Atherton Hall at church.

Please bring a dish or beverage to share. RSVP to Christina Caglar. In the event of inclement weather, Christina will email on Friday everyone who has RSVP'd to let them know the final location. We hope to see you there!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROSPECTUS 2009-2010

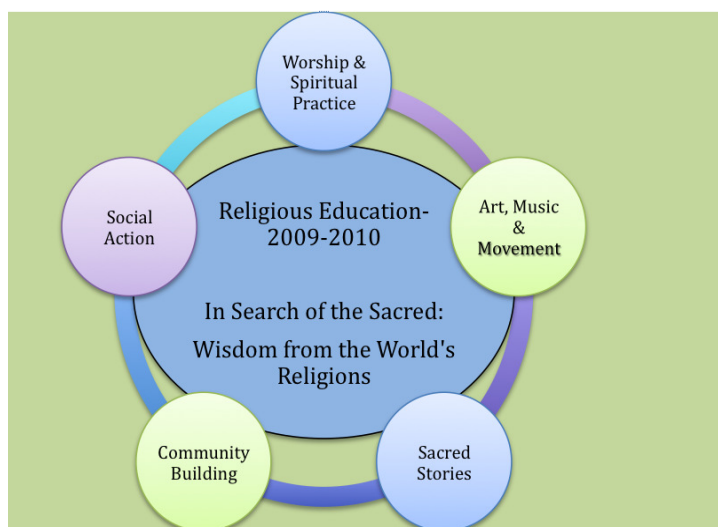
A Message from Our Minister

Welcome. I am very happy to be associated with such a vibrant and caring Religious Education Program. Unitarian Universalists believe in providing a program that nurtures the spiritual lives of young people, instills an appreciation, respect, and understanding of the world's religions, grounds them in Unitarian Universalism, encourages critical thinking, and creates a loving community for their growth and development. At Countryside Church we shape our program in joyful accordance with those beliefs. Our Director of Religious Education, Colleen Vahey, has catalyzed positive evolution in our program. New things are arising all the time. This is a rich time to be involved in the Religious Education life of Countryside Church. We are experimenting with worship forms that will enrich our intergenerational life. Our Lifespan Program is rich with offerings to stimulate the intellect and nourish the spirit. Ours is not a top down program, but offers the insights and skills of our members as well so that we are sharing with one another, challenging one another, and learning together. We are a thriving and growing congregation and that is always more true as new families, of all kinds enter and find themselves welcome. Welcome to Countryside!

...Rev. Hilary Landau Krivchenia,
minister@ccuu.org; 847-359-8440 x2

Elements of our Program

We believe there are many important elements to a balanced religious education program, including:



Support for All Families

We believe parents are a child's primary spiritual guides and that working together we can help nurture your child's spiritual growth. When your child is registered for our religious education program, you will receive e-mail updates to keep you informed of experiences in your child's classroom, and opportunities for further exploration at home. We also offer an extensive RE Resource Library

that parents may access to check-out a variety of books and resources. A new "Spirit Circle for All Ages" worship experience begins Oct. 4, 2009 and continues the first Sunday of each month from 9:30-9:50am, followed by fellowship and refreshment for all ages.

Parents are encouraged to ask questions, visit classrooms, and participate in a variety of programs throughout the year to support your own spiritual growth. We look forward to working together with you to nurture the spiritual lives of our children!

...Colleen Vahey, Director of Religious Education;
cvaheyuu@gmail.com; 847-359-8440 x4

CLASSROOM DESCRIPTIONS

Chalice Children (infant - age 2*)

We celebrate Sundays with stories, music, play and art. Our goal is to provide children with a positive introduction to the RE classroom, and to experience church as a nurturing place for friendship and learning. We've adopted a modified Spirit Play routine to help meet the needs of active toddlers and attune to their spiritual awareness. The morning routine will include an opening circle with music and movement, felt board story, free play and art, snack, and a closing song. Welcome!

Spirit Play (ages 3-Kindergarten*)

Our popular Spirit Play program is Montessori-inspired and intentionally created with stories that reflect our UU principles and sources. Developmental research suggests that between the ages of 3-6 children begin to ask existential questions such as: Who am I?, Where did I come from?; What is my purpose?; What are my gifts?. By offering a welcoming and intentional classroom, and opportunities for reflection through story, movement and art, children are given an "existential toolkit" to help them explore the wonder and mystery of life.

The morning routine includes:

- * Gathering Circle
- * Story followed by wondering questions
- * Choosing "work" from a variety of possibilities including: painting, clay, sand art, puzzles, finger labyrinths, yoga, sacred corner, story baskets, and reading corner
- * Cleaning-up and Closing Circle with "Feast" (snack) and closing music

Descriptions of the stories and wondering questions will be sent home each week, so you and your child may continue to explore at home.

Moral Tales & Picture Book of World Religions (1st-2nd Grade)

As UUs, we draw inspiration from "the wisdom of the world's religions" — one of the six sources of our

(continued...)

living tradition. Picture Book of World Religions introduces children to Hinduism, Islam and Buddhism through beautifully illustrated stories from each tradition. These stories illustrate universal human themes such as the value of loyalty, friendship, family, and the practice of compassion. It is our hope that children will enjoy these stories from different faiths — begin a journey of understanding the diversity of spiritual practice and religious faith, while identifying and celebrating UU principles and values.

Moral Tales is a new UU “Tapestry of Faith” curriculum that helps children explore situations and decisions they may face in every day life. Moral Tales provides children with spiritual and ethical tools to make choices and take actions that reflect their Unitarian Universalist beliefs and values.

Holidays and Holy Days (3rd-4th Grade)

Children will learn about the origins and meanings of holiday and holy day celebrations from a rich variety of religious traditions. We will also view segments from a new series of DVD’s, “Understanding World Religions”, featuring children who introduce their own religious tradition from their own perspective — Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Judaism and Buddhism. Activities will help our children be culturally literate, foster deep appreciation and respect for varieties of religious experience, and explore how to discern and live out their own beliefs as UU’s in a religiously plural world. This is a favorite curriculum for teachers and children alike.

Neighboring Faiths (5th-7th Grade)

This program, a cornerstone of UU religious education, promotes understanding and respect for other cultures while nurturing Unitarian Universalist identity. Every four weeks the class will learn about a religious tradition - its’ history, beliefs, holidays and spiritual practices, and then either welcome a guest visitor from that particular religious tradition, or take a field trip to a neighboring religious community. We trust these experiences will help youth become more aware of the many connections between Unitarian Universalism and other traditions, and will increase their understanding, appreciation, and skills for living in a religiously plural society.

Coming-of-Age (8th & 9th Grade)

Coming-of-Age is a Unitarian Universalist rite of passage that honors a young person’s passage into greater maturity, responsibility and spiritual commitment. COA creates intentional opportunities for youth to explore their religious beliefs and engages youth in the process of creating their own identity.

Youth in COA are asked to attend RE classes regularly where many of the important topics are introduced - UU history, principles and sources, values, social

justice, theology, death & afterlife, spiritual practice — via sessions from two curricula: UUA Coming-of-Age Handbook, and Compass Points. Throughout the year youth are also asked to meet after RE & Worship (Noon-1:30) for discussions with their mentors, and COA meetings led by the DRE, Minister, and guest speakers. The youth also participate in: two overnight retreats where important community building and personal sharing occurs; two service projects; and intergenerational worship services. Near the end of the program youth create a written affirmation or artistic expression of their religious beliefs to share with the congregation in a worship service. Youth also participate in a celebration dinner with mentors, families and friends, and a trip to historical Boston in June (birthplace of Unitarian Universalism in the U.S.A.).

Senior High Youth Group

The senior high youth group meets Sunday mornings 10:30-11:45, and is led by three dedicated volunteer advisors. Each Sunday the group begins with a chalice lighting and confidential sharing of joys and concerns, followed by discussion and/or activities based on selected topics. Our ministry to and with youth includes attention to five areas: 1) Worship; 2) Leadership; 3) Community Building; 4) Social Action; 5) Learning.

Youth may also serve on the Youth -Adult Council (YAC) that meets once/month to help guide youth activities in each of the five areas of ministry. Youth may also participate in a number of regional UU youth conferences “cons,” that include youth-led worship, workshops, and where many friendships are formed.

Senior High Covenant Group

This covenant group offers an opportunity for in-depth exploration of topics and issues relevant to youth. It is a confidential and safe space for personal sharing of life experiences in a small group committed to regular participation and mutual growth; group size is limited to 12 members. The group meets monthly, often at church or a coffee shop. The group also participates in at least one social action project each year. Welcome!

Adult Faith Development News

Intro to Enlightenment Intensives

An introduction to Enlightenment Intensives this Sunday, September 20, from 1:30 to 3:00 pm in Atherton Hall and is presented by John Stone www.heartland-ei.com Enlightenment intensives are a form of residential retreat whose purpose is to help you discover that which you most deeply desire - the truth of who you are. Enlightenment intensives are not easy, but the discovery of the truth is priceless and worth every effort.

The enlightenment intensive centers around inquiry into the truth of who you are. For three days, you contemplate the question "Who am I?" The aim of the inquiry is to have a direct experience of the truth, what is sometimes called an "enlightenment experience." The power of the inquiry lies in partner-assisted contemplation and in the combination of contemplation with communication and non-judgmental listening.

Enlightenment Intensives are unique. They belong to no tradition though they have their roots in the same soil that all the great traditions have grown from - humanity's longing for awakening. And they have no doctrine, no ready-made map that explains how the truth looks when you wake up. The fact of the matter is that no one can tell you the truth. Only you can discover the truth for yourself. What enlightenment intensives do is place you in an environment in which you can open to the truth and in which you can let the truth reveal itself to you. For more information, visit www.heartland-ei.com.

Journey Inward

Please note that this month's Journey Inward meeting has been re-scheduled to Thursday, September 24. That evening in Atherton Hall, we hear from guest speaker Joe Pelletiere on Ageless Wisdom and Transmission Meditation. Contact Erv Toth or Rose Schulz for more information.

Last Mondays Book Group

Join us on September 28 at 7 pm in the Stokes Room to discuss The History of Love by Nicole Krauss. On Oct. 26, we will discuss The Book of Air and Shadows by Michael Gruber.

Behind the Mask: what your Enneagram says about you

The Enneagram is a highly respected and popular tool for understanding personality. Come learn about the Nine Types and explore which one you may be. Then make a mask that expresses the "real you" or what self-knowledge you are taking away from the workshop.

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Rekindle the latent artistic ability you last used in grade school. Taught by Krista MacTavish and Melanie Schikore Andina Saturday, October 3, 9am - Noon. \$5 materials fee requested. Sign up on the bulletin board across from the church office.

Agnosticism, Humanism, Atheism Group

We are scheduled to meet on the first Tuesday of each month in Room 6 at 7:00 pm. The next meeting will be October 6.

Movies with Meaning

On Friday, October 9 at 7 pm in Atherton Hall. we will show The Miraculous World of the Very Small. Fungi, bacteria, and tiny engines inside every cell of our bodies. What can we learn from them? Can they help us live together and care for the planet we share? Three medium-length features, interspersed with lighter short segments.

Book Circle

At our next meeting, we will discuss Speaking of Faith: Why Religion Matters - and How to Talk About It by Krista Tippett (of NPR). We will meet on Sunday, November 1 at 6:30 pm in room 6. Everyone is welcome to join in the discussion!

Gong Meditation with Kenny Kolter

Immerse yourself in sound with the healing vibrations of the gong. A Gong Meditation will both calm and inspire your spirit. The vibrations can help balance and cleanse the energy in your body. The sound & vibration works at a cellular level and can help with stress, fatigue, depression, anger, and blocked energy.

The Adult Faith Development Council is sponsoring another Gong Meditation on Saturday, November 7, 3-5 pm, in Atherton Hall. Suggested donation for this event: \$20. (No one will be turned away due to lack of funds) Advanced registration is kindly requested. To reserve your spot, please contact Erv Toth.

This is an experience you will never forget. Wear loose, comfortable clothing. Bring a yoga mat, blanket or pillow and water and be prepared for a journey of a lifetime.

Spend Halloween at Countryside!

We'll have fun for all ages - featured events are likely to include Boo Bingo, Trick or Treating, Costume Contest, Haunted House and more! Mark your calendar for Saturday, October 31. If you are interested in helping with this event, please contact Deeya Roberts or Karen Epps.

Book Circle Hits the Road

The Book Circle recently read Three Cups of Tea by Greg Mortenson, a book that details his efforts to build schools in remote areas of Pakistan and Afghanistan not served by the government. Mortenson spoke at Loyola University on August 21, and several of us decided to go to the presentation.

To start the evening, Mortenson was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters by the School of Education. He seemed a bit uncomfortable with the ceremony (and the academic robes) but, as soon as he began talking of his work building schools, he relaxed and was clearly speaking from his heart. He summarized the story detailed in his book, a story that is inspiring, comical, and hair-raising (kidnapped by militants in western Pakistan; riding in a car with a box of dynamite under the seat to clear roads of obstructions).

The story Mortenson tells begins when he was rescued by a village in northeastern Pakistan after a failed mountain climbing attempt. He wanted to do something to repay the villagers for their generosity so he asked them what they needed. They told him a school for the children. When he returned to the US he set about raising money and founded the Central Asian Institute. Mortenson's effectiveness in helping the villagers is based in large part on his willingness to ask the villagers what they needed and to work to supply it. For example, he learned that unsafe drinking water was a primary cause of high infant and child mortality. Since you can't educate children who don't survive to school age, he raised money to bring in safe water. None of these schools and other projects would have been successful if the villagers had not had the sense that he was listening to them and that their needs were important. The story is also an illustration that the key to supporting peace and economic development is education for girls and women.

Mortenson also started a program called Pennies for Peace. The program began when his mother, the Principal of Westside Elementary School in River Falls WI, invited Mortenson to speak to her students in 1994. He was having a difficult time raising money from adults, but the students were so taken with his presentation that they started collecting pennies. One month later they had 62,345 pennies and the program has been growing ever since. As CAI is dedicated to helping children in the developing world become educated, Pennies for Peace is dedicated to helping students in the developed world broaden their horizons and become aware of their capabilities to help others.

Mortenson's book has been read by senior officers in the US military, and he has had extensive discussions with senior officers to help them adopt a more effective strategy and improve relations with Afghan civilians. Mortenson has been nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize. Mortenson's second book, Stones into Schools, will be released in December and I suspect that many members of the Book Circle will read it.

Personnel Committee Update

As there have been a few changes in the Personnel Committee we thought a brief update would be appropriate. We appreciated the positive efforts of outgoing members Judy Ball and Karen Epps. Jim Booth and Joy Simon were recruited to fill the vacancies.

Some of our recent projects include:

- * In preparation for Countryside's growth, we have developed a comprehensive personnel policy and procedure manual based on Unitarian Universalist recommendations.

- * Our annual staff performance reviews were completed and filed.

- * To fill the much needed church Sexton position, we have written a position description and work expectations. After review and considerable discussion, Rev. Hilary and the committee decided to seek candidates from outside the congregation for all new Countryside Church staff positions. Interviews for the sexton position will take place soon.

- * In the coming year, the committee will create a staffing plan for future congregational growth, evaluate current job descriptions, update employee agreements and research the possibility of applying to become a Fair Compensation Congregation.

We continue to focus our efforts on church staff needs and related issues. We welcome comments from church members.

...Personnel Committee: Joy Simon, Peggy Simonsen, Tom MacTavish, Jim Booth

GoodSearch for Church

Go to www.goodsearch.com and enter 'Countryside Church UU' as the non-profit you want to support, and the church will earn a penny every time you search the Internet and a percentage of every purchase you make online! GoodSearch.com is a Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue to the charities its users designate. GoodShop.com is an online shopping mall which donates a % of each purchase to your favorite cause! For more info, contact Bob Spielman.

Networked Committee Meetings

You may know and you may have noticed that we are reorganizing our committee meeting times. We are stacking the bulk of the meetings on Tuesdays. This is an exciting new format - used in a number of churches quite successfully and creates some positive opportunities for community building and creative networking.

This will help us to:

- save Sundays for fellowship and spiritual development;
- facilitate communication between committees who can pop in on one another to check things out or even meet together for short times;
- create an opportunity for some shared worship (about 10-15 minutes) during the week and put our committee work in a principles-based context; and
- more effectively offer childcare to facilitate families' participation in church life.

The proposed evening schedule will be to meet at 7 pm for shared refreshment and worship and then to go on to the various meetings from 7:30 to 9 pm.

The monthly schedule, as it stands right now, is:

- 1st Tues: Program Council & Nominating Committee
- 3rd Tues: Worship Council, Social Action, RE Council
- 4th Tues: Personnel Committee, Adult Faith Development Council, Membership Committee
- The Green Sanctuary Committee has had to maintain their 2nd Sunday meeting time.
- Rainbow Friends is maintaining their last Sunday of the month meeting time (tho' in Sept, they'll meet 9/20).
- The Finance Committee will continue to meet the 2nd Wednesday of the month.
- The Board of Trustees meetings have been moved to the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

Fair Trade at Countryside

Thank you to all who are supporting the monthly fair trade fundraiser by purchasing coffee, tea, and olive oil. Due to lack of interest, Halloween candy will not be ordered from Equal Exchange. The case contained 800 pieces and would have Countryside paying for most of it.

For the people who would have liked to order the candy, there are two alternatives. Whole Foods sells Endangered Species candy. Although not having a fair trade logo on packaging, it is listed on the fair trade website. You can also try www.SweetEarthChocolates.com.

Headlines from Program Council

Countryside's Program Council is made up of the chairs of all committees, with active participation from those that involve programming for the church (such as Membership, Religious Education, Social Action, Publicity, Green Sanctuary, and Nominating Committee.) The council has evolved over time to meet the needs of a larger-size church; its primary role is to work together with staff to oversee the programs of the church.

In the first part of this year, Program Council reviewed its role and identified objectives to guide our time together. These are:

- * To support the needs of the congregation by providing program leadership and coordination
- * To keep strong programs strong, to strengthen vulnerable programs, and to enable the creation and implementation of new programs
- * To enable growth and radical hospitality
- * To support program leaders

These goals are accomplished by focusing on Planning and Coordinating, communicating, and calendaring.

Program Council is now co-chaired by the Vice President of the Board and the Minister. We've come to see that contributing to program leadership is an important role for the settled minister, because the minister is called to enable, inspire, and help to lead programs of the church. This change will help us continue to form a constructive partnership between lay leadership and ministry at Countryside.

One of our goals is to expand our role by further supporting program leaders - those who are identified as well as those who are not yet identified or cultivated. In tandem with the Nominating Committee, Program Council hopes to become a source of leadership development so that we further strengthen our ranks and keep our programs thriving.

Any questions, contact Laura Mandell or Reverend Hilary Krivchenia.

Weeding Needed

We all like to look at the beautiful flowers and plants that adorn our church, but keeping the landscaping beautiful means weeding. Judy Miller has been trying to keep up with the weeds, but she is, understandably, becoming worn down by the scope of the challenge. Keeping our church grounds beautiful is really a responsibility of the whole congregation. We all benefit when the grounds are attractive. If you can help, please call Judy Miller.

...Leslie Peet

Upcoming Meetings and Events

A complete calendar of all events and meetings held in the building is on the church website (www.ccuu.org) under the "Events & Rentals" heading. If your church meeting or event is not listed there, please fill out a room reservation form (available with the calendar on the website) and submit it to the church office.

Wed 9/16	6pm	Making the Most of Our Money	Thu 9/24	6pm	Pride Youth - LINKS, 847-441-6191
	7pm	Board of Trustees Meeting		7pm	Journey Inward
Thu 9/17	6:30pm	Memorial Service for Bob Atherton		7:15pm	Church Choir Rehearsal
Fri 9/18	10am	Daytime Kinship Circle	Fri 9/25	10am	Worklife Support Group
	7pm	Song Circle		5pm	Board Meeting with Mike Durall
	7:30pm	Women's AA Mtg		7:30pm	Women's AA Mtg
Sat 9/19	9am	Planning Mtg-Halloween event	Sat 9/26	9am	Cakes for the Queen of Heaven
	9am	Organizing Your Job Search Workshop		9am	Congregational Mtgs with Mike Durall
	1pm	Board Retreat	Sun 9/27	9:15am	Open Forum Discussion
Sun 9/20	8:30am	Artist's Way Covenant Group		11:45am	Meet the Minister
	9am	Buddhist Dharma Group		12pm	Congregational Mtg with Mike Durall
	9:15am	Open Forum Discussion		12pm	Dance for Fun Covenant Group
	12pm	Green Sanctuary Committee Mtg		12:30pm	COA Meet Your Mentor
	12pm	Rainbow Friends Meeting		7pm	Zen Meditation, www.greatplainszen.org
	12pm	Music Committee Meeting	Mon 9/28	7pm	Christianity in an Age of Revolution
	1pm	Enlightenment Intensive		7pm	Last Mondays Book Discussion Group
	7pm	Zen Meditation, www.greatplainszen.org	Wed 9/30	6pm	Making the Most of Our Money
Mon 9/21	7pm	Christianity in an Age of Revolution	Thu 10/1	6pm	Pride Youth - LINKS at 847-441-6191
	7pm	PFLAG Palatine Meeting		7:15pm	Church Choir Rehearsal
Tue 9/22	11am	AFD Round Table	Fri 10/2	7pm	Song Circle
	7pm	Membership Ctte Mtg		7:30pm	Women's AA Mtg
	7pm	Personnel Ctte Mtg	Sat 10/3	9am	AFD Enneagram Workshop
	7:30pm	Adult Faith Development Council Mtg		10:30am	PYC Playdate & Potluck
Wed 9/23	6pm	Making the Most of Our Money		4pm	COA Retreat

Chicago Area UU Churches (CAUUC) Prairie Fest

A free community conference will be held at the Elgin UU Church on Saturday, September 26. The topic this year is "Ethical Choices for Sustainable Living - Money, Food, Energy, Environment." The festive day includes speakers and expert panelists to help us live more sustainably. For much more info, visit www.uucepf.com.

Unity Temple Centennial Gala

A once-in-a-lifetime celebration of the 100th anniversary of the dedication of Frank Lloyd Wright's modern masterpiece in Oak Park. Internationally acclaimed composer Peter Lieberson, under commission from the Unity Temple Restoration Foundation, has written a luminous piece, "The Coming of Light," which will be performed by the Chicago Chamber Musicians on Saturday, September 26, at 7 pm in the luminous sanctuary of Unity Temple Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Oak Park. Come for a "Sunset reception" at 6 p.m. The concert will be followed by dessert and a silent auction, a fundraiser for the Unity Temple Restoration Foundation. More information at www.utconcerts.com.

The Treasures of Uptown: A Series of Interfaith Gatherings

People's Church of Chicago will hold a series of gatherings to explore how interreligious cooperation among the world's diverse faith communities can contribute to peace in the world and greater recognition of human rights. The first such gathering features the Rev. Dirk Ficca, executive director of the Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions, happening on Sunday, October 11, 1-4 pm. Long-timers will recognize the Parliament as having been founded by a group of Unitarians in the 1890's, led by Jenkin Lloyd Jones. Its focus has remained on building a vibrant interreligious movement in Chicago and around the world. The series "Treasures of Uptown" - referring to the diverse people and faiths of the urban neighborhood - will be held monthly on the 2nd Sunday, 1-4 pm at the People's Church of Chicago, www.peopleschurchchicago.org

Social Justice Leaders Gathering

The UUs for Social Justice invites leaders of social justice programs in UU congregations to meet for a day of sharing resources and ideas on Saturday, October 17, 10am-2:30pm, at the Hinsdale Unitarian Church www.hinsdaleunitarian.org. A light lunch will be served for a free-will donation. For more information and registration, email uusj@sbcglobal.net