

Upcoming Worship Services

Worship Services begin at 10:30 Sunday morning

Unless otherwise noted, childcare and religious education classes are provided for all children and youth during Sunday morning services.

Nov. 1 at 9:30 am Spirit Circle for All Ages

All are invited to this new worship experience offered the 1st Sunday of each month. See page 2 for more details.

Nov. 1 at 10:30 am Day of the Dead (El Dia de los Muertos)

You are encouraged to bring pictures of loved ones you have lost (it doesn't need to be a recent loss). This service will not be a dwelling on death but rather a celebration of life and an interesting exploration of the North American encounter with Latin and Meso-American traditions.

November 8 Rev. Hilary Landau Krivchenia

November 15 All-Church Thanksgiving Service

This is an All-Church Service: Children and Youth will attend the service with their families. Childcare will be available in the nursery for infants and younger children.

Share-the-Plate: Half of the cash collected in the offering will be donated to The Citizens Foundation USA, a not-for-profit organization striving to provide quality education to the less fortunate youth of Pakistan.

November 22 Rev. Hilary Landau Krivchenia

November 29 Pulpit Guest from Meadville Lombard

Share the Plate: Half of the cash collected will be donated to the Palatine Township Holiday Gift Program.

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Daylight Saving Time Ends

Remember to turn your clocks BACK one hour when you go to bed on Saturday, October 31 (after you've attended the Halloween Party-see p.6) so you arrive at church on time Sunday morning.

How much are the times a-changin'?

Last month, we tried an experiment with our newsletter - of omitting the sermon topics. Let me repeat: this is only an experiment. The Minister's Muse addressed the idea behind this to some extent last month; we want to encourage people to attend services, regardless of the topic, for spiritual growth, for community, to come with your hearts open and your spirits primed. Our newsletter will have notice of important Sunday special events (not that every Sunday isn't a special event). As we get our website updated and improved - something that Cherita Axel has been actively involved in over the last month, we will have an increased number of the past sermons and perhaps even recorded files of those sermons that can be accessed on line.

So Worship Council and the Staff ask your patience with this small experiment. We had an exciting consultant; we certainly won't do everything he threw into the air for us to explore. Rather, we will follow the best practice and best wisdom that will enable us to become the congregation that you have said that you want to be - thriving, growing, and diverse. Please know that no great changes will come to pass without significant forethought, mindful communication, and process for thoughtful feedback. This is not a time for sweeping action but for sweeping thinking, incremental change, shared learning, mutual listening, common goals, and shared leadership.

...Rev. Hilary

Thoughts from the President ...

We've all heard much about the inspirational weekend we spent recently with our consultant, Mike Durall. While he was here, he received much information about what we treasure about Countryside, what we'd like to change, and where we as a community of faith would like to go. His challenges to us reflect what he heard from us.

Why did we invite Mike to come explore with us? Was it just to learn how to improve our bottom line, how to ask for more money? I don't see it that way. First, our number one goal in calling Rev. Hilary to our church family was to increase our spiritual maturity. Our SpICE goals ask us to grow in spirituality, involvement, communication and education. I believe these goals include outreach to those in need.

As those of you who were present during any part of the weekend with Mike, his intention, and ours in inviting him, was to help all of us, leaders and other members alike, to understand the "nature and character" of our church and its goals. His challenge to us is to go forward into unfamiliar and sometimes scary territory in order to have the capacity and the spiritual maturity to reach out to the "lost and lonely" souls who have yet to find fulfillment in a church home, and to those in the world who suffer injustice...to those who need us. He says in the introduction to his book, The Almost Church Revitalized, this understanding might even lead us to be "more adventurous, mischievous and successful" in our calling to minister to our members and our world. I especially like the idea of being mischievous in our search for ways to reach out. What would that look like?

This morning (Oct. 11) in her sermon, Rev. Hilary invited us to search for the opportunities to promote peace and well-being for all in this world that abound...they are knocking on our individual and collective doors.

So, what does this mean to us right now? Of course, I think it means caring for our church home and giving generously to the goal we have set for the building campaign, so we are able to make needed repairs and to pay down (or OFF) our mortgage, freeing up valuable assets to go forward with our goals. Brad Leeper writes, "Generosity is a spiritual issue of the heart." ("10 Stewardship Issues Every Church Leader Should Consider in 2009")

But it also requires a dedicated effort to find those ways, both large and small, local and global, that we can employ to put our resources and talents to good work making our larger community a better place for all. Rev. Hilary reminded us of some of these. The "Making the Most of Your Money" project is one way we have been doing this. That program needs more help. Taking part in the CROP walk is another way to do this...it's not too late to contribute to that project, even after it takes place. Our efforts to become a "Green Sanctuary" are gathering steam with the willingness of so many households to take part in the recent survey...it will require much more of us in the coming months and years. Our status as a Welcoming Congregation is a big step in the direction of justice for all. Our interest in the work of Greg Mortensen (author of Three Cups of Tea), and our support for schools in Pakistan create a wonderful platform for jumping into more global efforts for peace.

What else can we do? What ideas can we generate, together, to enlarge our family to include more of those who need us? We can all look for answers to these questions. I ask you to voice your ideas, unleash your mischievous and generous spirits, to "expect a mackerel," as a note on Rev. Hilary's door once pronounced. Let's help to create some miracles.

"However sheltered this port, and however calm these waters, we must not anchor here." ~Walt Whitman
In Peace, Judy Ball

First Sundays at Countryside

Spirit Circle for ALL Ages

A new worship experience - 9:30-9:50am in the Sanctuary followed by breakfast & fellowship in Atherton Hall. This month we will celebrate El Dia De Los Muertos. All are invited to bring a picture of a loved one who has died (a pet or person). Please join us for this celebration of life! The offering will benefit children involved in Countryside's Making the Most of Our Money program, helping families build literacy and money management skills.

Great Choir

Here's an opportunity for those who want to find out what it's like singing with our wonderful Countryside Choir or for those who would sing with us regularly but cannot commit to our weekly rehearsals: experience the Great Choir!

We'll meet at 9 am sharp in the choir room (just off Atherton Hall) and work on hymns and a fun and not-too-challenging anthem for the morning. Just show up! We will welcome you warmly and you will, we hope, have a GREAT time. See you in choir!

The Minister's Muse

I spend a good amount of time with folks talking about family issues - a whole lot lately - both within our congregation. Sometimes the death of a family member awakens old conflicts, sometimes it makes sharper the unresolved matters, sometimes, stuff just happens. In the ordinary course of life we discover that the simple, happy family is a both a rarer occurrence than television would have us believe and that no family is simple - even when "happy". Tolstoy famously said: "All happy families resemble one another, each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way." It would take a lot of nerve to disagree with a giant like Tolstoy - and, probably, it's more a matter of nuance than real difference... I think that every family has its own quirks, discords, and harmonies. Our stories are unique - and every time I get to hear one I feel honored to be given such a glimpse. Our stories are also very much kindred - so to speak. And we bring them to church with us - even when we never speak of them. This causes me a couple of reflections.

One is that, too often, people come to church veiling their personal lives. The image that always haunts me is of everyone sitting so neatly in their rows belying the pain each maybe feeling. I often hope that somewhere among the meetings, potlucks, building drives, and adult education classes - deeper relationships will be formed - real friendships that will allow each person to share aloud their struggles - to find support and sometimes clarity - and above all to learn that they are not alone. We each seek human community to be less alone. That doesn't mean that we are hungering for a place where everyone is always talking about their "issues" or reliving their stories. That sounds more like therapy - and perhaps not therapy at its best - than congregational life.

The deeper gift of congregational life is that, when we come together in community we receive another opportunity to rework our stories - particularly the ways that we respond to our stories. We develop habits in our families — and when we come into new community - we can develop new habits - new ways of responding. It's neither fast nor easy. But congregational life offers many great opportunities. Chances to observe ourselves and start anew. Of course that means that we have to allow one another to start anew as well. At our best our shared life as a faith community allows each of us the space, the encouragement, and even the prodding to grow - to be more insightful, more grounded, more alive, more committed than we were. Churches, temples, mosques, synagogues, meeting houses are not places where the perfect

(continued...)

In Sympathy

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Marge Olszewski on the death of her sister.

In Our Thoughts

Our prayers and healing thoughts go out to Country-side former member and continued friend, Roger Ehm, as he battles bone cancer. Roger and Emily would welcome cards and notes; their address is in the membership directory.

Minister's Muse (cont'd)

and joyful meet - but where each person should come with an eager and humble heart - knowing how imperfect we are — not - I'm okay but you need improvement - but we, as Sylvia Boorstein, one of my favorite Buddhist teachers said: "I'm not okay and you're not okay either and that's okay." Together we can all become more than okay - we can become shining examples of humanity reaching toward healing, strength, compassion, and wisdom. It's just up to every one of us to help create and then to attend those programs that will help us each to do just that.

Lately I see a lot of great energy in the congregation - young adults seeking community here, covenant groups regrouping (see small story elsewhere in the Focus), social gatherings, social action, Green Sanctuary, Circle Suppers.... OMG. Take part, help start, and take heart - we are doing great things together.

focus

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

Getting to Know Our Newer Members

Damian Christianson, who joined Countryside in April, was born in northern Michigan and grew up in the Chicago area, the oldest of three boys, with a Lutheran mother and a Catholic father. As a result of his parents being of two different religions, he did not have any church affiliation as a child, but his mother had lots of Unitarian Universalist friends. When he was 11, he started the Troika Lawn Mowing business with two of his friends, but he learned very quickly that they were not necessarily as committed to it as he was, a lesson he continues to confront over and over, even as an adult. He also worked for 5 years, beginning at the age of 11, for a mushroom farm.

In high school, at the age of 15, he was chairman of the International Committee for the Naperville YMCA and as such, visited Chile and soon learned that people all over are similar in such things as TV shows and family values. He also learned, having lived with families all over the Chicago area, how different people are from each other as well, even when they live in the same area.

Damian was in the Honors Program at Northern Illinois University, working toward a computer science degree, but earned so much money doing what he was learning, that he made the decision to drop out.

He has his own business, helping small businesses grow, using Michael Gerber's book "The E-Myth." He has enjoyed sailing, bicycling, camping, volleyball, theater, helping with lights and sound during theater productions — all in the past, as his present hobby is working on health care reform. Recently, much to his surprise, he received a Community Organizer of the Year award from Governor Quinn for this "hobby," along with another Countryside member, Hal Snyder.

Damian co-chairs Countryside's Open Forum, helps out with sound and video, is mentoring a Coming of Age person, and has worked on the Green Sanctuary and Social Action Committees, as well as Publicity and Membership.

Damian's parents retired 12 years ago to Ormond Beach (north of Daytona) after touring in their van for a year, looking for a Unitarian Universalist church, along with good intellectual stimulation and culture. They are now regular churchgoers!

Bring a Friend to Church

Sunday, November 8

We have found that many of our visitors come because a friend told them about Countryside Church. So we, Membership, thought let's not just talk about the church (although that is good too) but let's walk the talk. Let's have every member bring a friend to Sunday service and let's make it a festive event.

Sunday November 8 is the day! Now all we need is your support. Call a friend (or two) and invite them to service and the reception in Atherton Hall following service. We promise a great morning for you and your friends—a stellar welcome, an interesting, thoughtful sermon, and our ever-popular music.

Path to Membership Classes

All visitors are encouraged to attend Path to Membership classes. Classes cover UU history, traditions, Principles, practices and beliefs as well as Countryside history, society, stewardship and much more. Classes include time for discussion of spiritual journeys, socializing and refreshments.

The next session will be from 7pm to 8:30 pm on three consecutive Tuesdays, November 17 and 24, December 1. The final evening is a potluck dinner with representatives from Membership Committee, Social Action, Green Sanctuary and Board members. To register for a class, please contact Cathleen Chay or call the church office.

Joining Sunday is December 6, when new members are recognized and warmly welcomed by the congregation. A reception follows the service.

Meet the Minister

Once a month, visitors and new folks with questions about Countryside Church and Unitarian Universalism are welcome to meet with Rev. Hilary. Join her in the sanctuary after the greeting line has finished and you have gotten a cup of coffee or tea. She looks forward to meeting you, having a chance to connect and to answer questions. Upcoming Meet the Minister Dates: Nov 8, Dec 13.

Time and Talent Auction

Countryside's premier Time and Talent Auction will be on Saturday, November 21. This year it will include both live and silent auctions, a raffle and lots of good food and beverages. Look for a reservation form and donation form on page 11. You can also make reservations and purchase raffle tickets during coffee hour on Sunday.

Building Campaign Update

The 'Building Countryside' capital campaign is underway and we are almost 40% of the way to our goal of \$750,000. The responsibility of tending to our congregational home belongs to all of us together. Every pledge is important to help reach our target, so please return your pledge form as soon as possible. We are asking members to pledge three times their operating pledge to the campaign - payable over the course of the next 3 years.

Project Update

Over the next two to three weeks, new siding will be installed on the west (front) and south (sanctuary) sides of the building. This will replace the thin and deteriorated cedar panels that have contributed to our leakage problems. New Hardi-Shingles will be installed that will be consistent with the cedar shingle look that we already enjoy. This is a fibrous cement product that resists fire, moisture, hail, and insects and will not rot, crack or split. The new siding has an estimated life of at least 30 years and is much easier to maintain than other options. This material is also very "green" and sustainable, in keeping with our Green Sanctuary goals for a smaller ecological footprint.

At the same time as the siding is being installed, the water damaged windows in the sanctuary will be replaced with a low-E glass in new frames that will give us better insulation and a rejuvenated look. The new windows and trim will make for a more inspiring view onto our beautiful landscape and our brighter future.

For more information please stop by the Building Drive kiosk in Atherton Hall, or contact campaign co-chairs Paul Sneddon and Greg Blus.



Caring for the present, building for the future

Green Sanctuary

Thanks to the artistic efforts of Donna Calwas, our committee now has a flow chart that displays our Green Sanctuary certification progress. The chart is currently posted in Atherton Hall, and will later be moved to the GS committee's bulletin board just outside of the office door. If you are interested in participating in this exciting program, talk to Leslie Peet, Gail Wisniewski, or send an email to greensanctuary@ccuu.org.

Thanksgiving Day Tromp

Each Thanksgiving, Countrysiders gather for a walk in the woods. It's a great way to celebrate the blessings of another year, commune with nature, connect with old and new friends, and express gratitude. We'll follow an ancient trail that rolls through the woods and ravines and then winds along a creek. Some will bring coffee or cocoa for the end of the trail. This is a great church tradition which many members would not miss (including the cooks). You'll be done in plenty of time to enjoy the rest of your holiday festivities.

This year's Tromp through Deer Grove Forest Preserve will kick off at 10 am from parking lot # 5. Enter Deer Grove's main entrance off Quentin Road, 1/2 mile north of Dundee Road, turn right at the first stop sign, continue past the 2nd stop sign, and find us on the right before the road ends in a big loop. All are invited - large and small, young and old, and especially our 4-legged friends! If you have questions, contact Ron Vargason or Tom Dempsey.

Green Sanctuary Survey Results

In mid-September, the Green Sanctuary Committee completed its final tally on the Green Sanctuary Survey. 82 individuals/families responded-about 40% of our members and friends i.e. pledging units. This is a great response. Thank you.

What did we learn? Well, we are still processing the data and hope to get a detailed summary back to the congregation in some summary format. But here are a few highlights:

- over 90% of us recycle
- a lot less of us compost (30%)
- about 50% of us live in well-insulated homes;
- about 70% of us have fuel efficient cars
- none of use a composting toilet!

Well, you get the idea. This information will be used as a baseline to know how "green" the congregation is now, and how we look in the future. It is also important for setting a baseline in the Green Sanctuary Process we are engaged in as a congregation.

The thing that struck us most was what areas you wanted more information on. In all the questions relating to "Seeking Earth Justice" we had the highest request for more information. Also, there was a lot of interest in rain gardens, solar energy and purchasing carbon credits. There were even some requests on composting toilets!

Our plan is to have some kind of educational event or program that provides information on the areas you expressed the greatest interest in. Stay tuned!

Program Council Headlines

At the October 6 meeting, Program Council had a brief discussion about the idea of ‘spiritual maturity’ presented in Mike Durall’s book *The Almost Church Revitalized*. (if you are interested in reading this book, please check the lending library in Atherton Hall or the church office.) We discussed the benefits of having a “shared path to something of meaning, a common purpose.” Some of us were struck by the note in the book that “Collective accomplishment is a critical factor in creating healthy communities of all types.” Given the range of theological beliefs in a UU community like ours, is our common purpose about what we believe together or what we do together? Further discussion about our common thread and what draws us together is warranted.

Caring for the Present/Building for the Future

In a discussion about the weekend sessions with Mike Durall, the themes in his book, and the upcoming capital campaign, we talked for a while about what Mike meant by democracy.

In an effort to equip ourselves to be nimble and responsive through times of change, we will think about some ways to be sure our community manages the process of change effectively.

Program Needs

RE and Membership agreed to work together to check in with Journey From PADS to Hope and see if there is a way we can help the program — which is in need.

Fair Trade Fair: SAC and the program council would like to support this event again; tentatively planned for November 8.

Headlines from the Programs:

* Green Sanctuary has applied for a grant from Faith in Place in exchange for using Countryside as a case study/educational resource. We’ll know in April if we earn the grant. Funds would be used for environmentally-friendly paving and ways to use water as a resource (rain garden and cistern)

* Green Sanctuary has set up an email address:
greensanctuary@ccuu.org

* Membership has done some tracking and learned that we have 16 to 18 repeat visitors every week, along with a steady handful of first-timers. Congregation members are encouraged to extend a welcoming hand.

* RE rooms have been painted by volunteers - thank you volunteers! In addition, a fantastic mural has been painted by students of all ages —from Spirit Play on up -and will be up shortly.

* The Religious Education library is now online -go to <http://bit.ly/ccuurelibrary>

* Countryside, through our Social Action Committee, has donated enough funds to build a whole library in a primary school in Pakistan. They have also received a \$1000 grant from MB Financial for Making the Most of Your Money.

Funding Microloans

Improve the World One Business at a Time

As Rev. Hilary recently said, “Now is the time” to make a difference in the world. One way to do that is to donate to www.Kiva.org. This non-profit organization funds microloans (small business loans) throughout the world and it even has a UU team of 282 members. I have been donating to this organization for months and every time I give money, it goes to the UU Team.

It would be great to see more Countryside members on this site, rather than just me. I am lonesome for your commitment to this great cause! I mostly donate to women’s small businesses in places like Africa, Asia and South America. It’s fun to decide to whom to loan money. Each person seeking a loan has their picture and a write up in English of what they want to use the money for, typically prepared by the local organization that distributes the money to them. It doesn’t cost much, only \$25 for each donation. And I have always gotten my money back. Then I lend it out again! Such joy to donate to others around the world where our money can really help them improve their lives through funding their small business ventures.

If you want to know more before donating to Kiva, ask me about it during coffee hour at church. I’d be glad to talk about it! ...Nancy Klein

Halloween Party

On Halloween, Saturday October 31, all adults are invited to Monster Mash ‘09. Doors open at 7:30 pm, activities go full swing at 8 pm. This FUN-raiser will include bingo emceed by Rick Juretic, a costume contest, music and other games and of course, refreshments. At 10:30, the doors also open for teens of the congregation to join in for a showing of the Rocky Horror Picture Show.

Social Action Update

Fair Trade Market is November 8

Join us on November 8 in Atherton Hall following the worship service for our annual Fair Trade Fair. Stock up on holiday gifts while promoting fair trade and a living wage. Along with Countryside's table of Equal Exchange products, returning vendors Enterprising Kitchen and Maya Works will be present. Amnesty International will have a table set up. Invited but not confirmed will be Heifer International for those who have everything. Sale will run until 1:30.

Making the Most of Our Money Receives Grant

Making the Most of Our Money has been awarded a \$1,000 grant from the MB Foundation. \$250 of the grant has already been allocated to purchase addition books to give to the children participating in the children's portion of the program. Our current session of MMOM started September 2 and will end November 4. The next session will start March 31, 2010. A thank you to all who have participated in the program, whether as a teacher, mentor, volunteer in the children's program, snack provider, designer of the Penny Game, etc. A special thank you to Sean, manager of the Rolling Meadows Staples office supply store. Since this program started, Staples has been very supportive of the MMOM program by providing free laminating services and some office supplies.

Library Purchased for School in Pakistan

We donated \$850 to The Citizens Foundation, USA (TCFUSA) to purchase a library for a school being built in Pakistan. \$674 was raised by church members and our high school youth group by serving pizza and desserts at the food tent during Arlington Heights Frontier Days Festival. The balance of the \$176 was from our social action budget. A copy of the books purchased is posted on the social action bulletin board. All 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.

CCUU Participates in CROP Walk

On October 18, eleven church members marched or raised money for the CROP Hunger Walk. Countryside Church raised over \$1,100 for the CROP Hunger Walk. This total will increase as three envelopes had not yet been turned in.

Toiletries Collection for Food Pantry

Rid yourself of unopened shampoo, conditioner, body lotion, moisturizer, shower gels and other beauty items you don't use and help struggling women feel better about themselves. Full-sized, samples and hotel freebies are welcome. No make-up or used products please. Deposit your items in the "Skin Deep" plastic bin in the coat closet and when it fills, it will be delivered to the Wheeling Township food pantry for distribution to needy women. These little luxuries go a long way in helping people who struggle to secure necessities improve their self-esteem. Thank you for your donations.

Sponsor-a-Family Holiday Gift Program

Countryside Church is committed to provide holiday gifts for at least 30 individuals from low-income families in our community whose financial situations will not allow them to experience a joy-filled holiday season. We will end up providing each individual gifts with a total value between \$50 and \$75 dollars. However, you do not need to donate \$50 to participate in this program. You will know the first name, age and sex of the person you are helping. We will also provide a list of clothing needs and other suggestions for the person you sponsor. All gifts must be received by December 12. Signup sheets will be available soon.

\$100 Donated to BEHIV in Support of AIDS Walk

The Social Action Committee donated \$100 to Team BEHIV on the recent AIDS Walk and Run. The money was donated to show our support for the Rainbow Friends Committee here at CCUU.

Who Gets the Share-the-Plate Money?

Ever wonder where the share-the-plate money goes or how much was raised? A list of all sums collected and the name of each organization is listed on the social action bulletin board.

Why Should We Participate in Social Action?

"I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something that I can do. What I can do, I should do." ~Edward Everett Hale (American author and Unitarian clergyman died in 1909)

Next Social Action Committee Meeting

Our next meeting is Tuesday, November 17 at 7 pm in classroom 1.

Religious Education (RE) News

Come Grow With Us!

Many thanks to all our young people in religious education, and to our dedicated member and artist, Rolf Mueller, for creating the beautiful “Come Grow With Us” handprint mural!

Spirit Play (ages 3 - Kindergarten)

The children have been enjoying new stories each week, including learning about the Jewish High Holy Days and the Hindu celebration of Diwali. This past week the class celebrated birthdays with a new ritual and walk around the sun. Ask the children about their peace rose, and all the peace-making skills they are learning!

Moral Tales (Grades 1-2)

This growing class is enjoying learning new songs, playing getting acquainted games, hearing great stories with ethical decisions to be made, and embarking on the “Gems of Goodness” project, where each child is encouraged to cultivate acts of goodness throughout the week, and then share these experiences with the group.

Holidays & Holy Days (Grades 3-4)

In addition to attending Spirit Circle worship on Sundays (10:30-10:50am), this creative class has been learning a lot about Judaism and Hinduism, and UNICEF Day. They are also watching a new series of DVD’s, “Understanding World Religions,” with children introducing their religious tradition from their own perspective.

Neighboring Faiths (Grades 5-7)

This class is learning a lot about eight world religions this year, and much about their own UU identity. A few weeks ago, thirteen youth and several adults enjoyed a wonderful visit to Beth Tikvah synagogue in Hoffman Estates for their Simchat Torah service. We look forward to welcoming Zala Siddiqui from the Abraham Salon speaking about Islam on Nov. 8.

Coming-of-Age

This year’s group is off to a great start! They enjoyed a fun overnight retreat with lots of community building activities and personal sharing. Their great RE teachers and mentors are helping lead discussions about life experiences, values, and UU principles. This week the group will celebrate Day of the Dead and explore various beliefs about death, dying and after-life.

Senior High Youth

To help accommodate an overflow of youth wanting to attend Fall Conference, our senior high youth are modeling adaptive change, and hosting a mini-district conference on Sat., Nov. 7! The con will include all the popular elements of a regular con: worship, social action, small groups, workshops, dance and fellowship!

The senior high youth covenant group begins again this week! If interested, please contact religious educator, Colleen, 847-359-8440, x4.

RE Registration Now Online!

Thanks to the great work of Andy Khan and Cherita Axel, you can now register online! If you have not already turned in a hard copy form, please visit the church website to register your child/ren: www.ccuu.org; under “Our Church” click “RE Registration Form.” It just takes a minute, and provides vital information that we need for each young person (infants - age 18). Thank you!

RE Snacks & Supplies

To help with supply costs, we ask that each family with a child or youth in RE, donate the following materials:

* Spirit Play & Chalice Children: Non-perishable food items - pretzels, crackers, etc. Due to strong attendance this fall, we are really in need of more snacks for these classes; thank you!

* 1st-2nd Grade: Hand sanitizer

* 3rd-7th Grade: Hand soap

* Coming-of-Age & Senior High: Paper towels & Kleenex

Adult Faith Development News

Hatha Yoga

The practice of hatha yoga can help relieve stress, decrease chronic pain, increase flexibility and strength, and can help you access the inner peace you need while you strive for peace in the world around you.

Join Sarah Mikulski, Sivananda Yoga certified and Yoga Alliance registered yoga instructor, in exploring this multi-faceted practice here at Countryside Church. All levels are welcome, and the teacher will cater to the needs and abilities of the students present each class. All that is required is a yoga mat and an open mind. Classes will be held Thursday evenings from 7-8 pm beginning October 29. If you are interested, please sign up on the bulletin board across from the church office. For more info, contact Sarah at sarahmikulski@gmail.com.

Gong Meditation with Kenny Kolter

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.

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

Suffering & Happiness in the Buddhist Tradition

Those who have only a casual acquaintance with Buddhist thought often assume that it offers the most pessimistic of worldviews, grounded in the assumption that "life is nothing but misery." Actually, Buddhist teaching affirms the opposite. Life's persistent unsatisfactoriness and the fact that we humans do inevitably suffer are captured in the first pronouncement of the Buddha.

Come hear Jim Kenney address this topic on Sunday, November 8 at 1:30 pm in the Sanctuary at Countryside Church. Requested donation: \$10. Jim is the Executive Director of Common Ground, an adult study center focusing on the world's great religious, philosophical and spiritual traditions and their implications for every dimension of human endeavor and experience. He lectures widely on a variety of subjects relating to politics, religion, history, and culture.

Movies with Meaning

On Friday, November 13 at 7 pm in Atherton Hall.

Rainbow Friends News

In solidarity with the collective community of transgender, transsexual, and other gender-variant individuals across the entire state of Illinois, Illinois Gender Advocates will be sponsoring the 2009 Day of Remembrance on Saturday, Nov 14 at 5pm at the New Spirit Church, 542 S Scoville Ave, Oak Park.

The Transgender Day of Remembrance raises public awareness of unprovoked attacks against transgendered people, and gives allies a chance to step forward and stand in solemn vigil. For more info, contact Cynthia Richards at Cyndi@genderadvocates.org

Games Night November 6

We have lots of fun! Don't miss it! Games for all, for one or two or even a few! Join us in Atherton Hall at 7:30 pm on Friday, November 6 for another evening of games and laughter.

Song Circle

All are invited to an informal gathering of singers and musicians on the 3rd Friday of the month, November 20 at 7 pm in classroom 4. Bring an instrument if you play one, your voice, lyrics and music if you want others to sing and play with you. Any questions, contact Tony Pretto.

Book Discussions

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!

Last Mondays Book Group

Join us on November 30 at 7 pm in the Stokes Room to discuss I Was Told There'd Be Cake by Sloane Crosley. *Wry, hilarious, and profoundly genuine, this debut collection of literary essays is a celebration of fallibility and haplessness in all their glory.*

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.

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 10/28	6pm	Making the Most of Our Money	Fri 11/13	7pm	AFD Movies with Meaning
Thu 10/29	6pm	PrideYouth (LINKS 847-441-6191)		7:30pm	Women's AA Mtg
	7:15pm	Church Choir Rehearsal	Sat 11/14	TBA	Circle Suppers
Fri 10/30	7:30pm	Women's AA Mtg	Sun 11/15	8:30am	Artist's Way Covenant Group
Sat 10/31	7:30pm	Halloween Party		9am	Buddhist Dharma Group
Sun 11/1	9am	Buddhist Dharma Group		9am	Open Forum Discussion
	9am	Open Forum Discussion		12pm	Movement for Fun Covenant Group
	9:30am	Spirit Circle for All Ages		12pm	Nominating Ctte Mtg
	9:50am	Breakfast & Fellowship		7pm	Zen Meditation, www.greatplainszen.org
	12pm	COA meeting	Mon 11/16	7pm	PFLAG Palatine Meeting
	7pm	Zen Meditation, www.greatplainszen.org	Tue 11/17	7pm	RE Council Mtg
Mon 11/2	7pm	Christianity in an Age of Revolution		7pm	Path to Membership Class
Tue 11/3	7pm	Agnosticism, Humanism, Atheism Grp		7pm	Social Action Committee Meeting
Wed 11/4	6pm	Making the Most of Your Money		7pm	Worship Council
	7:30pm	Menzgroup Covenant Group	Wed 11/18	7pm	Board of Trustees Meeting
Thu 11/5	6pm	PrideYouth (LINKS 847-441-6191)		7pm	Journey Inward
	7pm	Hatha Yoga	Thu 11/19	6pm	PrideYouth (LINKS 847-441-6191)
	7:15pm	Church Choir Rehearsal		6pm	Path to Membership Class
Fri 11/6	12pm	Worklife Support Group		7pm	Hatha Yoga
	5pm	Church Board Retreat		7:15pm	Church Choir Rehearsal
	7:30pm	Games Night	Fri 11/20	10am	Daytime Kinship Circle
	7:30pm	Women's AA Mtg		12pm	Worklife Support Group
Sat 11/7	9am	Leadership Workshop		7pm	Song Circle
	12:30pm	Sr High Lock In		7:30pm	Women's AA Mtg
	3pm	AFD Gong Meditation	Sat 11/21	5pm	Time & Talent Auction
Sun 11/8	9am	Open Forum Discussion	Sun 11/22	9am	Open Forum Discussion
	11:30am	Fair Trade Market		7pm	Zen Meditation, www.greatplainszen.org
	11:45am	Meet the Minister	Tue 11/24	7pm	Membership Ctte Mtg
	12pm	Green Sanctuary Meeting		7pm	Path to Membership Class
	12pm	Movement for Fun Covenant Group		7pm	Personnel Ctte Mtg
	1:30pm	Common Ground Lecture		7pm	Experiencing God Covenant Group
	3:30pm	Rental: NWSMTA Recital		7:30pm	Adult Faith Development Council Mtg
	7pm	Zen Meditation, www.greatplainszen.org	Thu 11/26	10am	Thanksgiving Tromp @ Deer Grove
Mon 11/9	7pm	Christianity in an Age of Revolution	Fri 11/27	7:30pm	Women's AA Mtg
Tue 11/10	7pm	Tuesday Kinship Circle	Sun 11/29	9am	Open Forum Discussion
	7:30pm	Sr High Covenant Group		12pm	Rainbow Friends Meeting
Wed 11/11	7pm	Finance Ctte Mtg		7pm	Zen Meditation, www.greatplainszen.org
Thu 11/12	6pm	PrideYouth (LINKS 847-441-6191)	Mon 11/30	7pm	Last Mondays Book Discussion Group
	7pm	Hatha Yoga	Tue 12/1	6pm	Path to Membership Class
	7:15pm	Church Choir Rehearsal		7pm	Program Council Meeting
	7:30pm	Amnesty International Meeting		7pm	Agnosticism, Humanism, Atheism Grp

Circle Supper Dates

To aid in planning, here are the Circle Supper dates for the remainder of the church year:

Nov. 14
Dec. 12
Jan. 9
Feb. 20
Mar. 20
Apr. 17
May 15

Focus Deadlines

Nov. 23, Dec. 14, Jan. 4
Submit articles by 9 am
to ccuu@ccuu.org

Countryside's 2009 Time and Talent Auction and Dinner

Saturday, November 21, 2009

Cocktails, Appetizers and Silent Auction at 6:00 pm

Dinner at 7:15 pm

Followed by the Live Auction and Raffle Drawing

You do not have to bid on anything nor do you have to donate an item to attend the Auction. Just plan on attending for the dinner and to enjoy the bidding action.

Donations

Your donations determine the success of the Time and Talent Auction. Do you have time to provide a service like pet sitting or carpentry work? Perhaps you have a talent to offer like musical abilities or artistic creations. Can you host a party in your home? Examples of some items auctioned recently include:

* Dine on authentic Japanese cuisine. Six lucky bidders will enjoy warm and generous hospitality and an extraordinary Japanese dinner (with a contemporary twist) at the home of your hosts Yuki and Rick Juretic.

* Games and Pizza Party. The Spielman home is the place to be if you love table games, pizza, drinks and good company. What could be better? Offered by Karen and Bob Spielman for ten winning bidders.

* Silent auction donations have included an astrological consultation, handcrafted jewelry, a personal computer help session and Ars Viva Symphony Orchestra tickets.

Give it some thought; be creative. Then complete the form on the reverse side and mail it to church, put it in the collection basket, or in the box designated for "auction donations" in the church office. Please submit your donation description no later than November 1. The live auction will feature approximately 25 creative and dramatic donations. The balance will be in the silent auction.

If you have questions, please contact Deeya Roberts or Karen Epps. Thank you for your donation!

Dinner Reservation

Please RSVP by November 15 by completing the reservation form and mailing or dropping it off at church.

Name (please print) _____

Number of adults at \$25 per person _____ Total for dinners _____

Total amount of check \$ _____ Check number _____

(Make check payable to Countryside Church UU)

Please note that we will provide child care. Have your child bring a sack lunch. We will provide snacks and drinks.

Number of children requiring care: _____

Time and Talent Auction Donation Form

Your name (please print) _____

Telephone number _____

Description of your donation (please print) _____

Are you willing to offer this donation more than once? If yes, how many? _____

Approximate value of your donation \$ _____. This is the amount you can take as a charitable contribution.

Personal services are not deductible. For example, the cost of the food you prepare for a dinner in your home is deductible, but not your work in preparing it.

Please submit Donation Form to the Church Office NO LATER than November 1.

District Assembly

April 30-May 2, 2010

Westin Chicago North Shore in Wheeling

District Assembly (DA) will once again feature workshops and small break out groups relevant to professionals and congregants in numerous roles: ministers, religious educators, congregational leaders, finance/stewardship leaders, administrators, music directors and folks responsible for technology at their congregation. There will be the usual inspiring banner parade, moving worship services and the winner of the sermon award will present their award-winning words as part of the Sunday morning worship. And there will be the important sharing of resources, experiments and successes around the issue of growth that religious leaders are always clamoring for. We particularly want to mention the wonderful Choral Festival being planned by Jan Chamberlin for Saturday Evening with singers from all over the District. This will be a thrilling event - you won't want to miss it! So save the date and join us!

Martha Atherton Goes to Libya

Martha is part of a ten-member delegation from the American Women for International Understanding (AWIU) that is traveling to Libya, arriving October 23. They will spend 10 days learning about the country, culture, and citizens and meeting with NGOs, government agencies, and local people.

You can follow the blog of their journey at <http://sites.google.com/site/awiulibyadelegation2009/>

Chicago Area UU Churches (CAUUC) Multiracial Congregations: Can we get there from here?

The Reverend Qiyamal Rahman, Director of Contextual Ministry at Meadville-Lombard Theological School will speak at the annual meeting of the Chicago Area UU Council, Saturday, November 7, 9am-3pm at the North Shore Unitarian Church in Deerfield, www.nsuc.org. The day will include an afternoon of roundtable discussions sharing perspectives and developing "next steps" toward multiracial congregations. Register at www.uuchicago.org.

Return Service Requested
Time-dated Material - Prompt Delivery Requested

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