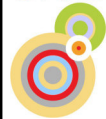




BE THERE OR BE Congregational Annual Meeting

Sunday, May 15, 11:00 am

This is also the day we begin our one-service summer schedule. The Annual Meeting will follow 10:00 worship & R.E. classes. At the Annual Meeting, congregation members will vote on the 2016-17 leadership slate and operating budget. See page 2 & 3 for more info, and watch for the meeting agenda and final proposed budget to be emailed on or before May 5. Childcare will be provided during the meeting.



Don't Miss the Passover Seder ~ Fri, Apr 29, 6 pm

Come to the annual Countryside Passover Seder. If you haven't registered, please contact Carol Bobbe NOW, cabobbe@comcast.net or 847-842-1360. This is one of our major all-church events of the year. Recommended donations are: \$10 per adult, \$5 per child, or \$30 per family. Seder plates, wine & grape juice, matzo ball soup, and roasted chicken are provided. You are asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share that follows basic Jewish tradition. We will need some people to stick around to help clean up.

Lay and Care Ministry Programs

We Are Here for You!

This is a reminder that the Lay Ministry program is in our 29th year of working with Countryside's ministers and our congregation. Our goal is to provide a mutual ministry and support to members of the congregation in times of transition and crisis. Our role is to be a presence in times of loss, such as through death or divorce; however, our support is not limited to those very major situations. We are available, when wanted, in times of sickness or just when someone needs to talk through some trouble in his or her life. All conversations are confidential within Lay Ministry. For members to access Lay Ministry, please contact Reverend Hilary or the Lay Ministry coordinator, Ken Bobbe.

Care Ministry is also available in Countryside to provide other types of comfort and support to members. Examples include meals delivered to the home after illness, transportation for medical treatment, and check-in calls to shut-ins. Our entire membership is encouraged to volunteer to provide whatever service(s) they can. To access the services of the Care Ministry, contact Hilary, or Ken who will then work with the Care Ministry coordinator, Sheilah Sokeland.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with us! ... *The Lay Ministry Team:* Ken Bobbe, Karen Greenland, Barbara Griggs, Kathi Hillyer, Joy Simon, Chris Smith, Kim Tilford.

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From Your Board of Trustees

Sunday, May 15, will be the Countryside's Annual Meeting. That Sunday will also be when we move to our summer schedule of one service on Sundays. Service will be at 10:00, with the annual meeting immediately following. Childcare during the Annual Meeting will be available for families.

It is important for our members and our Friends (those non-members who participate in Countryside services and activities) to attend our annual meeting. Each UU congregation is an independent entity. We have a national Unitarian Universalist Association that we are part of, as well as a regional organization that we can look to for support, but unlike in many faiths, we do not have a church hierarchy outside of our congregation that dictates to us what we can and cannot do. Our congregation has a democratic structure in which the membership is the final authority. Part of the privilege and responsibility of being a UU is to participate in the decisions that will shape our future.

Election of officers and adoption of a budget for 2016/17 will need to be voted on at this meeting by those who are members of our congregation. The nominating committee has been working hard, and a slate of officers has been presented for you to study. The stewardship team, led by Gary LaBedz, has worked very hard on this year's pledge drive. The Finance committee, led by our treasurer Mary Johnson, has spent many hours working on building a balanced budget.

The Board has two primary responsibilities in this process that we have to work with to find a balance. Every Board of Trustees has the responsibility to work for the economic stability of Countryside, now and for the future. Each board takes what the previous boards have done and tries to build on that. We rely on and respect the knowledge of the 'numbers' people in the Finance committee who have the difficult job of creating a balanced budget when the majority of our budget is based on a pledging process. They bring their knowledge and experience from the business world to this process, and it is an essential resource for us.

Your board is also responsible for providing leadership in expressing and helping to implement the vision and mission of our congregation going forward into the future. In determining the actual budget that will be presented to the congregation for a vote, we have the responsibility to strike a balance between these two, often competing, responsibilities. We have to balance immediate financial realities with the strong belief that we are on the cusp of exciting possibilities for the future.

There have been many good things going on here at Countryside, but in some ways, we have been going through several years of 'treading water.' We have lost staff. Much energy and time has, of necessity, been directed towards keeping programs going without full staff and also in the search for new voices to come to work with us. There has also been a long process of gathering information from the congregation as to what their hopes

(continued...)

From Your Board (cont'd)

and dreams are for the future of this congregation in an effort to build a Strategic Plan that can guide our decisions and actions as we move forward.

The search for new staff was done with the intention of finding highly skilled professionals whose talents would help implement the kinds of programs our congregation has said they want and need to meet the future with vigor. That work was done with a great deal of thought and input from many in the congregation. We now have that new staff, and they are working and planning together as a coordinated team. It includes the experience of our senior minister and church administrator with the added energy and skills of our new music director and Director of Lifespan Religious Education (DLRE). Our ministerial intern and our RE assistant are also invaluable members of that staff team. Their presence is integral to making many of the new initiatives for next year possible.

Along with the staff, the board and Ministry Council have also been working to put the Strategic Planning Committee's information, which was presented at last year's annual meeting, into concrete and specific and actionable initiatives. You may have noticed posters in Atherton hall detailing general information on the budget, progress in the pledge drive, and highlights from the ministries about this year's successes. Please continue to check Atherton as additional information is posted leading up to our Annual Meeting. Our goal is to have as much information as possible for each of you to study before that meeting. We will also be highlighting initiatives for the coming year and beyond, and we will need everyone's input.

All members should make the effort to attend the Annual Meeting. Those of you that are not yet members but regularly attend are also encouraged to attend and to be a part of this discussion—and also to see our UU democratic processes in action.

As you study the information that will be coming to you in preparation for the annual meeting, please seek out your board members to ask questions and share ideas. As always, feel free to email me at prez@ccuu.org.

UU Principle Song

(sung to the tune of Do Re Mi from Sound of Music)

- ONE—Each person is important.
- TWO—Be kind in all you do.
- THREE—We're free to learn together.
- FOUR—And search for what is true.
- FIVE—All people need a vote.
- SIX—Build a fair and peaceful world.
- SEVEN—We care for Earth's lifeboat.
- That will bring us back to me and UU.

2016-17 Leadership Slate

Reprint of April 13 email announcement

Listed here is the slate of candidates put forth by the Nominating Committee for the upcoming church year, **The church membership will vote at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 15 at 11:00 am***. The nominees, if elected, will assume their positions on July 1. These candidates were thoughtfully selected and recruited by our Nominating Committee, and we are confident that they will serve our church well, with both skill and compassion.

From the By-Laws, Article X-3: Additional nominations for all elected positions may be made by petition of at least ten percent (10%) of CCUU membership. Petitions shall be filed with the Secretary of the Board at least ten (10) days prior to the business meeting convened for their election.

**NOTE: There will be one worship service & religious education program at 10:00 am from the 3rd Sunday in May through Labor Day. On May 15, the Annual Meeting will immediately follow the one worship service.*

Board of Trustees

Nominees for the Board of Trustees:

- President-elect: Christine Organ [1-yr term as President, will then serve a 2-year term as President]
- Vice President: Sheryl Skifstad [1st yr of 2nd 2-yr term]
- Trustee: Kathi Hillyer [1st yr of 2-yr term]
- Trustee: Jeanie Michalec [1st yr of 2-yr term]
- Trustee: Mike Berry [1st yr of 2nd 2-yr term]

Continuing on the Board of Trustees:

- President: Karen Noorani [2nd yr of 2-yr term]
- Treasurer: Mary Johnson [2nd yr of 2-yr term]
- Secretary: Matt Briddell [2nd yr of 2-yr term]
- Trustee: Kristin Huston [2nd yr of 2-yr term]
- Trustee: Joy Simon [2nd yr of 2-yr term]

Endowment Committee

from the By-Laws, Article VII, Sec.5: The Endowment Committee shall consist of five voting members, members of the Congregation, elected at an Annual Meeting of the Congregation for five-year (5) staggered terms such that one member is elected each year and no member shall serve more than two consecutive terms. Nominations to the Committee shall be made in the same manner as for members of the Board of Trustees. The Parish Minister and President of the Board of Trustees shall be nonvoting members of the Committee. In the event of a vacancy, the Board of Trustees shall appoint a member to fill the vacancy until the next Annual Meeting.

Nominee for the Endowment Committee:

1. Tony Pretto [1st yr of 5-year term]

Continuing on the Endowment Committee:

2. Mike Berry [5th year of 5-year term]
3. Kay Gredell [4th year of 5-year term]
4. Fran Mueller [3rd year of 5-year term]
5. Lois Phillips [2nd year of 5-year term]

Nominating Committee

From the ByLaws, Article X-4: The Nominating Committee shall consist of seven (7) members. Six shall serve for a term of two (2) years. Each shall be eligible for reelection to one (1) additional term. One member shall be appointed each year by the Board of Trustees to serve for a one-year term. No Nominating Committee member may serve more than four years of continuous service. Three members shall be elected at the Annual Congregational Meeting each year. The Convener of the Nominating Committee shall be selected by the President from those directly elected by the Congregation to the Nominating Committee.

Nominees for the Nominating Committee:

1. Bruce Bezella [2-year term]
2. Jessica Gardner [2-year term]
3. Jeff Phillips [2-year term]

Continuing on the Nominating Committee:

1. Debbie Lee [2nd year of 2-year term]
2. Peggy Simonsen (2nd year of 2-year term)
3. Tim Reuter-Bowers [2nd year of 2-year term]

The Nominating Committee would like to thank those members who are completing their service for their commitment to the work of Countryside Church:

- Alan Greenland – Board Member
- Karen Greenland – Endowment Committee
- Angelina Huntsha, Siri Laurin, Laura Mandell – Nominating Committee

Minister's Muse

Some years ago, I was at a huge meeting of delegates for a march. There were probably two hundred of us in a big auditorium in Houston. Of course, there was debate, disagreement, compromise. The air sizzled with energy. Gradually, the big questions were answered. As the meeting wore on, I felt myself still leaning forward listening, ready to engage. And after an hour or so, it hit me very clearly, and I thought to myself, "I like this. I like the intensity and the work of meetings. I like being here and participating. I like the work of organizing and planning – and, later, it turned out, I even liked the work of making it all happen.

Over the last ten to fifteen years, I have heard about how people nowadays don't like meetings, don't want to take the time for them. And I remember the joy of that meeting. It was the joy of interacting with other people planning something meaningful. It was the satisfaction of watching something take form – even something in the very early stages. I was raptured. Participation gave me energy and empowered me. I was part of something I was committed to.

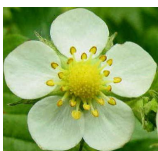
So when I think about the annual meeting – that is just coming up – I wonder why more people don't come to it. Oh there are usually 60 or so. And they care deeply about the future of the congregation. In fact, the people who come are usually the most dedicated folks. They show up at meetings, come in for all-church clean-up days, serve on committees, and.....

Because of participation, they understand how things work, what the vision and hopes of the congregation really are, what the detailed work is that needs to be done to achieve those visions and hopes; they understand who else is dedicated, who is in leadership, and what things need to be weighed. Because of participation, they feel a sense of satisfaction when new things happen. Because of participation, they feel a greater sense of belonging.

They've learned one of the best kept secrets of congregational life and of groups in general – that participation is what is called a virtuous cycle. The more you participate in something, the more connected you feel; the more connected you are, the more you feel like you belong; the more you feel like you belong, the more you feel like it belongs to you also; the more you feel like it is yours, the more you want to support it and participate in it – and it begins again.

If you've never attended an annual meeting, give yourself a chance on Sunday, May 15. It is an important time at CCUU. We are ready for great work – come and be a part of it.

In Sympathy



The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Laura Mandell on the death of her mother on April 21.

From Our DLRE

The Art of Teaching

One of my greatest passions in my personal life is art, mainly painting. When I create a painting, I begin by taking a raw piece of canvas and carefully coat it with layers of gesso. When it is dry, I sand down all the bumps and ridges; angling and turning the canvas in all directions—examining it closely to be sure I have a good foundation to paint on.

I usually paint with oil and there is no room for impatience when using this medium. I begin by laying down a thin loose base coat. Then layer by layer, I begin creating. Oil is my favorite medium because of its fluidity and how slowly it dries. I rarely feel like I have made a mistake that cannot be corrected. If my proportions are off, I still have time to work with the paint I've put down. I can wipe it away—move it around the canvas until I have everything where I want it to be. Oil paintings are typically created in layers; each building on the one before until finally depth and vibrancy is created. Then, just when you think you are done... the most difficult part begins. The wait. Oil paint dries to the touch in about 1-2 weeks. That's just to the touch. It can take months for all the layers to settle and dry.

On May 15, our children and youth will be hosting the teacher appreciation breakfast for all our 2015-2016 teachers. There is an abundance of gratitude for all that has been given to Countryside Church's Children and Youth Religious Education program. Every week our RE teacher volunteers generously share their knowledge, passions, creativity and inspiration with our children and youth. Yes, we are fortunate that our religious education program has a wing to meet in, a great curriculum to teach from and materials to create with, but these alone do not form a foundation of faith. It is our teachers' loving hearts that makes our rooms temples for the soul, their insight that bring words alive on a page, their unique vision to craft meaning from pipe cleaners, crayons and construction paper that create the lasting connection to our faith.

I truly believe that teaching is a form of art and teachers are the artists. Much like my description of the creation of an oil painting—teaching follows a similar process. As religious educators, we have our tools and knowledge to guide us along the journey. We lay foundations of love. We may smooth out a few bumps along the way and from there, build layers upon layer of faith formation. We teach with fluidity, moving back and forth with the rhythm of each beating heart in our classrooms. Sometimes we step back and wait for things to settle in and when it is time, begin creating the next layer. John Steinbeck wrote, "I have come to believe that a great teacher is a great artist... Teaching might even be the greatest of the arts since the medium is the human mind and spirit." To him and to our teachers I say, "AMEN!"

On May 1 & 8, our Worship Service & Religious Education classes are held at 9 & 11 am. Relig. Ed. classes are held at 9am for infants thru' grade 4; at 11am, for infants thru' Sr High.

Beginning May 15 (3rd Sunday in May) and continuing through Labor Day, we will have one Worship Service & RE Program at 10:00 am.

NOTE: Announcements begin 5 minutes prior to the start of the worship service.

Worship descriptions are also on the church website: www.ccuu.org/worship-a-music/worship-schedule.html

May 1 at 9 & 11 am Plastered and Stoned: Art in Politics & Politics in Art
Rev. Hilary L. Krivchenia

Young people begin in their classrooms; it's a Faith in Action (service learning) Sunday.

May 8 at 9 & 11 am Eileen Wiviott, Ministerial Intern

Young people in Spirit Play and above (age 4 and up) begin in the Sanctuary with their families. All other young people begin in their classroom.

Share the Plate: Half of the cash collected in the offering will be donated to WINGS, Women in Need Growing Stronger, whose mission is to provide a continuum of integrated services in an effort to end domestic violence and homelessness, one family at a time. For nearly three decades WINGS has provided nearly 500,000 nights of shelter and service to thousands of women and children who needed a fresh start. All WINGS programs offer safety planning, therapeutic and financial counseling, support groups, community referrals, life-skills enhancement, career and housing solution assistance, and mentoring. Women sign a contract for housing that includes an agreement to participate in on-going services.

*****From the 3rd Sunday in May through Labor Day, we have one service and religious education program at 10:00 am. This is to encourage the greatest participation in the Congregational Annual Meeting, which is held immediately following worship on the 3rd Sunday of May.*****

May 15 at 10 am Creative Interchange
Rev. Hilary L. Krivchenia

Young people in Spirit Play and above (age 4 and up) begin in the Sanctuary with their families. All other young people begin in their classroom.

May 22 at 10 am Beyond Humanism
Rev. Hilary L. Krivchenia

Young people in Spirit Play and above (age 4 and up) begin in the Sanctuary with their families. All other young people begin in their classroom.

During this service, we will also honor our graduating high school youth who are Bridging from youth to young adulthood.

Share the Plate: Half of the cash collected in the offering will be donated to the Kenneth Young Community Mental Health and Senior Services Center, a community-based, not-for-profit which "helps people feel good, do better, and find solutions" through a variety of programs that provide assessment, counseling, psychiatric, recovery and support services.

May 29 at 10 am Not My Circus, Not My Monkeys
Rev. Dr. C. Scot Giles

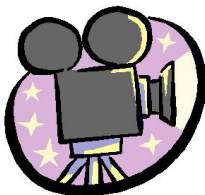
There are no RE classes this Sunday. Young people are invited to attend the service; childcare will be available.

The Polish saying "Not my circus, not my monkeys" is a way to decline to take responsibility for someone else's problem. Knowing when to intervene and when not to can be a difficult balance to hit, whether as individuals or as a nation. Dr. Giles will explore the psycho-spiritual rules for doing exactly that.

June 5 at 10 am All-Church Flower Communion
Rev. Hilary L. Krivchenia

This is an All-Church Service; young people attend the full service with their families. Childcare for infants and toddlers will be available.

Please bring a flower or a few flowers from home to share. A Unitarian tradition begun by Norbert Capek, the Flower Communion celebrates the beauty of our diversity and our hope for continued blossoming as a community of spirit.



Let's Get Visible

If you would like to help put together some videos about CCUU—or be videotaped yourself—to start a CCUU Youtube Channel and raise our profile online, please contact Rev. Hilary, Minister@ccuu.org or 847-359-8440, ext.2. We want to capture memories, to share the things that we value about CCUU and about Unitarian Universalism. In time, we will also create a series of shorts on congregational life and leadership ideas and introductions to the various ministries and programs of CCUU.



Social Action News

Call for Share-the-Plate Nominations: May 1-15

Would you like your favorite non-profit organization to benefit? From Sunday May 1 through Sunday May 15, 2016, you may submit a nomination for a 501(c)3 organization that you would like to see receive monies from CCUU's Share-the-Plate program. In this program, half the cash collected in the Offering is given to a charitable, non-profit organization. Share the Plate is offered twice/month, usually the 2nd and 4th Sundays. This program is overseen by both the Social Action Committee and the Outreach Steering Committee. Please email all nominations or questions to socialactionchair@ccuu.org.

Monthly Fair Trade: May 22

Once/month we offer fair trade products from Equal Exchange for sale. This is your chance to stock up on chocolate, coffee, tea, cocoa, olive oil, and snacks. *Our next sale will be Sunday, May 22 at 11:00, after worship.*

Transitions

Thurs, April 28 & May 26, 10 am

The mission of the Transitions group is to provide a forum for mature adults to explore life transitions with a supportive community during daytime hours.

We meet monthly on the 4th Thursday. The program begins about 10:15 and is followed by a potluck lunch. Bring a dish to share or if you prefer, your individual lunch. Also, if you wish, bring a friend. All are welcome. On April 28, Peggy Simonsen will present the program on *Living & Learning in Paris*. On May 26, Janet Simmons will present the program on *Louisa May Alcott & friends*.

Great Books Discussion Group

We meet the 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month in the Stokes Room to discuss selections from the short story anthology, *Seven Deadly Sins*, published by the Great Books Foundation. Discussion leadership rotates among group members on a voluntary basis. The cost of the book is \$20. If you would like to join us, please contact Gloria Kinney.

Memoir Makers: 2nd Fridays, 10 am

Our next meeting is Fri., May 13 in classroom #1. In addition to sharing any new writings by members, we will view the final lesson of Dr. Tilar Mazzeo's course, *Writing Creative Non-fiction*. We will begin *The Art of Storytelling* on June 10.

Sacred Heartbeat Drum Circle

Sat., April 30 & May 28, 7 pm

Adults and teens are invited to join us in Atherton Hall for free-style drumming in a low key, peaceful, welcoming environment. No drumming experience necessary! Please bring your instrument(s); some limited hand percussion is available to share. For more info, visit www.PalatineDrumCircle.com.



Green Sanctuary News

Garden Plots Available

Spring is here and it's time to think about gardening. The Green Sanctuary Committee has organic vegetable plots available on the north hill. No experience is necessary, just energy and commitment to maintaining your plot through the season. We donate part or all of our produce to the Palatine Food Pantry... your choice. Last year, we donated over 400 pounds! For more information, contact Donna Calwas (mellysmom@earthlink.net or 847-991-8959) or sign up on the Green Sanctuary bulletin board. If you can't commit to a plot of your own, you may be able to help in other ways. You are welcome to join our group!

Climate Action: Making Solar Happen on May 14, 8:30 am-12:30 pm

Come hear and speak with leaders who are helping to bring solar to our communities through new models that let everyone participate! Help us expand solar through our community centers, houses of worship, school districts, and municipalities. The workshop will be held at CCUU and is co-sponsored by Faith in Place, Interfaith Green Partners, ISEA, Sierra Club, and Elevate Energy. Share the flyer on PAGE XXX with friends & neighbors! Register online at <http://makingsolarhappen.eventbrite.com>.



Walk in the Woods with Interfaith Green Partners: May 15, 2:00 pm

The Green Sanctuary Committee and Interfaith Green Partners invites everyone to take a walk in the woods! We plan to meet on the 3rd Sunday of each month at various locations in Deer Grove Forest Preserve, which is just north of our church. Our first walk is scheduled for Sunday, May 15, from 2:00-4:00 pm. Meet at the driveway circle at the end of the Camp Alphonse entrance which is located on Dundee Rd. between Ela and Quentin Rds. Individuals and families are warmly welcome! For more information, contact Gail Wisniewski at greensanctuary@ccuu.org.

Monthly Meatless Potlucks

Sun., May 22, 5 pm

Countryside Animal Friends invites you to join them on the 4th Sunday of the month in Atherton Hall. Bring a vegan (no meat, eggs, dairy, or honey in the ingredients) dish to share that more-or-less serves 6-8. We will provide drinks, dishes, utensils. If this is your first time attending and you don't know what to bring, please just bring yourself. For more info: Sheryl Bass or Steve Combs.



Teaching as a Spiritual Practice

On May 1, Countryside Church begins teacher recruitment for the fall. And yes, we need you. We need you not for how much you know about children, teaching or even Unitarian Universalism, but for how much you are willing to give of yourself, of your soul. We equip our Religious Education teachers with the many tools - training and advice about teaching, curriculum, and the Unitarian Universalist philosophy of religious education. We will pair new teachers with more experienced ones. We will provide you with training and workshops. Most of all, you will learn what it means to be a practicing Unitarian Universalist through the experience of teaching itself.

Dr. Berry Andrews, a long time Religious Educator, believes there are seven principles to being an RE teacher:

1. Respect the children: In Emerson's words, "Be the companions of their thoughts, the lovers of their virtue. Let them find us so true to our own selves, that they will be true to theirs."
2. Confront the children with your own humanhood: There is no one way of being Unitarian Universalist, and children benefit from being exposed to a multiplicity of perspectives. What is important is that we embody our faith, that we are example to children and youth of what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist.
3. Promote community: It is in community, when we gather together in a special place, that our faith and values take on a visible shape, where our Unitarian Universalist principles are promoted and reinforced.
4. Make it sacred: The primary reason people come to churches and bring their children is to develop a spiritual life.
5. Cultivate your soul: As much as children and youth need a spiritual life, teachers need one, too. As we walk the spiritual path with them, they help us to remember.
6. Grow in your faith: Teaching reminds us to embrace our own spiritual identity as a Unitarian Universalist.
7. Put down roots: Our work as religious educators is a vital part of the life of the congregation as a whole, and what we do for children and youth help create the next generation of Unitarian Universalist.

I have spent years working with teachers in Unitarian Universalist Religious Education programs. They have given so much to our children and youth, our faith and our church communities. They have loved strong and are a beautiful example of the living exercise of our faith. And with all that they give, I have yet to see a teacher unchanged from their teaching experience.

Please join us on the journey of being a Religious Education teacher in the 2016-2017 school year. Contact Jules Jaramillo, Director of Lifespan Religious Education, at drle@ccuu.org or speak to an RE Council representative for more information. We need you and you need us.

2016-17 Religious Education Prospectus

Countryside Church's Children and Youth program for 2016-17 will have the focus of building a stronger connection and love for our Unitarian Universalist faith.

9:00 am CLASSES

- **Chalice Children (2 years – preK)**
Early childhood is filled with curiosity and wonder. In this group setting, with loving adult guides, young children can engage in spiritual seeking, develop their openness to sharing, and experience the benefit of a supportive community. Each class includes a routine circle time for sharing, learning about a specific topic, and experiencing the topic through music, movement or art. Topics may include UU traditions, as well as other world religions, cultures and traditions, music, science, care for the environment, care for ourselves and others, and animals.
- **Head, Heart, and Hands (Kdgtn-grade 4)**
This will be a multi-age class supporting children in their individual learning styles to develop a closer connection to their Unitarian Universalist faith. Three centers will encourage participants to learn and express themselves in activities using their head, heart, and hands guided by an adaptation of UU Tapestry of Faith curricula:
 - Love Surrounds Us:** At the core of our Unitarian Universalist community are our seven Principles. The Principles encompass all the ingredients of a good and faith-filled life based on equality, freedom, peace, acceptance, truth, care, and love. This program explores all the Principles in the context of Beloved Community of family/home, school, neighborhood. Participants engage in activities that emphasize the love they feel in community.
 - Love Will Guide Us:** In this program, participants learn to seek guidance in life through the lens of our Unitarian Universalist Sources, with an emphasis on love. Together we ask questions such as, "Where did we come from?" "What is our relationship to the Earth and other creatures?" "How can we respond with love, even in bad situations?" "What happens when you die?" Sessions apply wisdom from our Sources to help participants answer these questions. Participants will learn that asking questions is valued in Unitarian Universalism, even as they begin to shape their own answers.

(continued...)

2016-17 R.E. Prospectus (cont'd)

11:00 am CLASSES

Chalice Children (2 years – 4 years): Early childhood is filled with curiosity and wonder. In this group setting, with loving adult guides, young children can engage in spiritual seeking, develop their openness to sharing, and experience the benefit of a supportive community. Each class includes a routine circle time for sharing, learning about a specific topic, and experiencing the topic through music, movement or art. Topics may include UU traditions, as well as other world religions, cultures and traditions, music, science, care for the environment, care for ourselves and others, and animals.

Spirit Play (age 4—grade 1): We use the Montessori approach method teaching our children the values that support Unitarian Universalism. Stories have been developed in the following categories:

- Unitarian Universalist Focus Lessons and Stories
- Promises (Our Principles)
- Stories from our UU Sources
- Stories of the Mystery that some people call God, Beginnings and Ends, Sacred Places, Church Corner or Altar Table, Ways to Pray
- Heroes and Heroines (Prophetic Women and Men)
- World Religion Stories and Lessons
- Judeo-Christian Stories
- Stories based in Science
- Stories of our Interdependent Web

Grades 2-4

Love will Guide Us: Young people will learn to seek guidance in life through the lens of our Unitarian Universalist Sources, with an emphasis on love. Together we ask questions such as, "Where did we come from?" "What is our relationship to the Earth and other creatures?" "How can we respond with love, even in bad situations?" "What happens when you die?" Sessions apply wisdom from our Sources to help participants answer these questions. Participants will learn that asking questions is valued in Unitarian Universalism, even as they begin to shape their own answers.

Signs of Our Faith asks us to think about religion as the practice of being faithful to what you love. In order to do this, you must decide what you love and do your best to live that love faithfully every day. Signs of Our Faith guides children to do their best to live faithful lives every day. It presents fourteen traits or values that most Unitarian Universalist love, including the quest for knowledge, reverence for life, supporting one another on our faith journeys, and public witness. Children examine how their lives do and can exhibit these traits and values, and come to understand that their faith is a living faith whose histories and teachings are fortifications for living faithfully in a complex world.

(continued...)

Grades 5-7

Love Connects Us asks us to think about religion as the practice of being faithful to what you love. In order to do this, you must decide what you love and do your best to live that love faithfully every day. Signs of Our Faith guides children to do their best to live faithful lives every day. It presents fourteen traits or values that most Unitarian Universalist love, including the quest for knowledge, reverence for life, supporting one another on our faith journeys, and public witness. Children examine how their lives do and can exhibit these traits and values, and come to understand that their faith is a living faith whose histories and teachings are fortifications for living faithfully in a complex world.

Heeding the Call is a social justice curriculum that not only explores linked oppressions in our society, but also encourages participants towards personal growth in values that counteract the marginalization of others. Workshops on empathy, courage, abundance, joy, and other qualities ask participants to recognize how these standards can be tools for justice. Additionally, the program includes more concrete tools, such as suggestions on how to be a good ally and tips on the language of conflict resolution. True stories of courage, sacrifice and collaboration, role-plays, games, and a program-long justice project will feed youth's rising realization that as people of faith we are all called to love justice—not just with our words, but also with our deeds.

Coming of Age/8th-9th Grade

The Coming of Age program guides adolescents on a yearlong spiritual journey with opportunities to explore their identities, their beliefs, their Unitarian Universalist faith, their relationships with others and their connections to the world. Outside of weekly classes, each youth is paired with a trained adult mentor to support them in the coming of age journey.

High School/10th-12th Grade

A Place of Wholeness is an opportunity to examine UU faith journeys to better understand themselves in the context of Unitarian Universalism. There are several overarching themes that structure this program. Wholeness—the primary theme of the program—is defined as the way in which our Unitarian Universalist faith is understood by connecting, professing, and living our faith. Wholeness is also important in the sense that each person is integral to the wholeness of the Unitarian Universalist community.

20-30 Somethings

1st & 3rd Sundays

If you are in your 20s or 30s, please join us in classroom 4 after second service on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month. Childcare is available during meetings. For more info, email 2030s@ccuu.org.

Atheist-Humanist-Agnostic Group

2nd Tuesdays, 7 pm

All are welcome to join us on May 10, when we will watch a 30 min talk by Andrew Copson, Chief Executive of the British Humanist Association, given in 2013. In it, he gives an introduction to Humanism. As an FYI, we are also working on getting a guest speaker in over the month or two to discuss Humanism/Humanist issues.

Buddhist Study Group

May 1, 12:30-2 pm

For May, we are meeting on the 1st Sunday, instead of the 2nd Sunday. Join us in the Sanctuary to continue our discussion of Thich Nhat Hanh's book Anger and will practice both walking and sitting meditation. For more info, contact Melanie Terbovic.

QiGong

Tuesdays, 10-11 am

Join Emmett in classroom 9/10 to experience slow, gentle body movements & guided meditation. Donations to CCUU will be accepted.

Poetry Series

2nd Wednesdays, 7 pm

Join us in the Sanctuary. Each month features poetry reading by a local published poet. *On May 11, we welcome Tobin Fraley, whose poetry is described as free form with subject matter of childhood memories, world frustrations, and silly things.* Attendees are invited to read one of their poems after the featured guest's reading. If you wish to read, please submit a request in advance to Trudy Kleckner or Bernice McCarthy.

Journey Inward

3rd Wednesdays, 7 pm

Join us in Atherton Hall to explore and learn about metaphysics, spirituality, alternative healing modalities and much more. For more info, visit www.journey-inward.com.

World Religions Class Continues

Last 3 sessions: May 4, 18, 25

Our final three sessions are: May 4-Islam, May 18-Secular Humanism, May 25-Unitarian Universalism. The first two sessions will be led by John Camardella, who teaches World Religions at Prospect High School. The session on Unitarian Universalism will be led by Rev. Hilary; Jules Jaramillo, Director of Lifespan RE; and Eileen Wiviott, ministerial intern. Please join us!



Faith in Action

Book Drive ends May 1

This Sunday, the Book Drive for Bernie's Book Bank ends, and our young people will sort all the donations that have come in. If you haven't already done so, please bring in your unwanted books, workbooks, and activity/coloring books. *All books donated* that don't fit the criteria required for Bernie's Book Bank *will be distributed* to other charities in need that may include our own church library, local shelters, and the Palatine Library's book sale.

Open Forum Discussion

Forum meets each Sunday to discuss "the issues of the day" while respectfully welcoming different perspectives. We meet in classroom 5 at 8:45 am and socialize for 15 minutes before discussing the day's topic from 9-10 am.

Note: beginning May 15, due to the one-service schedule, we will meet at 8:30am to socialize and discuss the day's topic from 8:45-9:45am.

To be added to the Forum email list to receive supporting materials for the discussions, contact Vid Axel. Upcoming *tentatively scheduled* topics are:

- May 1: Education Reform, part 2 ~ Let Kids Learn at Their Own Pace
- May 8: Foundations of U.S. Liberal Democracy

Movies with Meaning

Fri., May 13 ~ Racing Extinction

Join us at 7 pm in Atherton Hall to view and discuss *Racing Extinction*. Oscar-winning director Louie Psihoyos (The Cove) assembles a team of artists and activists on an undercover operation to expose the hidden world of endangered species and the race to protect them against mass extinction. Spanning the globe to infiltrate the world's most dangerous black markets and using high tech tactics to document the link between carbon emissions and species extinction, *Racing Extinction* reveals stunning, never-before seen images that truly change the way we see the world, inspiring us all to embrace the solutions that will ensure a thriving, biodiverse world for future generations. All are welcome!

Movies with Meaning is held the 2nd Friday of the month, is open to the public (invite friends!), and free (voluntary donation to help cost of film licenses).

Upcoming Book Discussions

Book Circle: June 5, 6:15 pm

All are invited to join us in classroom 6 to discuss This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. The Climate by Naomi Klein. We gather at 6:15; discussion begins at 6:30.

Last Mondays Book Group

All are invited to join us in the Stokes Room on May 23 to discuss A Tale for the Time Being by Ruth Ozeki (*note: in May, we are meeting the 4th Monday, as the last Monday is Memorial Day*)

June 22-26 in Columbus Ohio Register Now!

Register for General Assembly, the annual largest gathering of Unitarian Universalists, at <http://www.uua.org/ga>.

Come, listen, and learn with people all across our faith movement and beyond. The theme for GA 2016 is *Heart Land: Where Faiths Connect*. The faith world is increasingly multifaith. People are crossing borders of religion and spiritual practice to create wholeness in their lives individually and collectively. The labels—Christian, Jew, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, theist and non-theist—no longer define who or what we love, or how spirit moves in our lives. General Assembly 2016 will assemble leaders and communities of many faiths to worship together, learn from one another, and create a new vision of faith that no longer divides us, but connects us to an interdependent future that works for all.

In addition to business sessions, the GA program offers workshops & lectures, wonderful worship, and witness opportunities. Participate in the GA choir (nearly 200 singers from UU churches across the continent) under the direction of Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout from UU Congregation of Ann Arbor. The annual Ware Lecture will be given on Sat, June 25 by Krista Tippett, author of *Speaking of Faith* and host of the radio program *On Being*.

There are opportunities for off-site participation if you can't make it to Columbus; see www.uua.org/ga/offsite.



Be a Delegate...

At both Regional Assembly (Apr 29-May 1 in St Paul MN) and at General Assembly (June 22-26 in Columbus OH), you can participate in the business of our denomination on behalf of CCUU by being a delegate. If you are planning to attend either of these events, please contact our Board President, Karen Noorani, Prez@ccuu.org, to get a delegate card so you can participate on behalf of our congregation.



What's General Assembly All About?

Read what our minister and members of our congregation have to say about the experience...

from Rev. Hilary: General Assembly is the only annual opportunity to General Assembly is the only annual opportunity to gather with a few other Unitarian Universalists: to sing, to learn, to worship, to vote in a large, joyful, noisy community. The event is spread over a few days and, usually, quite an active conference event. There is a wide variety of workshop topics from issues of congregational concern – new governance models, innovative social justice programs, the introduction of new Religious Education curricula, the presentation of historical programs, leadership development, spiritual practice. In addition, there are multiple worship opportunities – from early mornings to late evenings, from quiet meditations, to yoga, to youth-led services, to worship services that celebrate milestones in ministry. There are service projects and actions of social witness. There is a huge Exhibition Hall in which hundreds of organizations present their materials and many, many artisans and vendors offer UU-themed art, clothing, music, books, and the chance to wander thoughtfully and run into people of like interests. Above all, there are the Plenary Sessions during which, in the most creative and delicate balancing act between chaos and order, noise and right relationship, the issues of the moment are debated by hundreds of people and voted on by delegates from our congregations. It's a great experience.

This year, because GA is relatively nearby (it moves from coast to coast from north to south), we hope Countrysiders might carpool and convoy and convey ourselves to this event. It's a chance to grow, deepen, play, and learn together. It's not an inexpensive venture, but there are ways of volunteering there that can lower the cost, scholarships available through the UUA's GA office, and Countryside has some scholarship funds to help where possible. So please consider going!

Lisa Bohné: I have attended General Assembly twice. Both times I attended workshops throughout the days and met so many interesting and inspiring people. I heard new, helpful, challenging and inspiring ideas – about congregational life, social justice, spiritual practice and personal ways of being and growing in the world. It was exhilarating to be surrounded by so many UUs buzzing with enthusiasm, ideas and joy. I heard fabulous lectures, creative sermons and exquisite music. I left each General Assembly full of joy and energy about the possibilities in life and in UU community. Everyone should try it!

Karen Noorani: I learned a lot about the larger UU community by attending a General Assembly (I attended in 2010 in Minneapolis). It was fascinating to get a taste of the huge variety of UU congregations that exist across the country. It also helped me start to develop a much clearer perspective, as well as to become better informed about the UUA that we are a part of. The GA is a combination of educational opportunities and sessions where

(continued...)

GA Testimonials (cont'd)



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

those attending must vote on the direction the UUA will take as an organization going forward on issues of the day. There was a wide variety of sessions to attend on everything from worship and study-related topics to social justice issues. I was particularly impressed with how well potentially controversial issues were handled in a democratic yet time-efficient way that gave every viewpoint a voice, kept the atmosphere a collaborative one, and allowed everyone to have the information and time needed to make informed decisions before voting. I would highly recommend that every UU attend a General Assembly at some point, both to be sure that Countryside has a voice in UUA decisions and to learn more about the larger UU community that we are a part of.

Judy Ball: I have attended two GAs and was blown away by both the spiritual atmosphere and the practice of our democratic principles in such a large group of folks, many with opinions that needed to be expressed. First, the feeling of being in the Banner Parade from all the represented congregations is hard to describe. Fun, for sure, and exhilarating as well. Just to see the creativity and loving care put into each banner was worth the trip! The plenary sessions were masterfully organized and conducted, and the small group meetings provided information, sharing of ideas and an opportunity to contribute to the discussion of the issues being considered in the plenaries. I urge all members to attend just once, to share the overwhelming community of spirit in our denomination. There's nothing quite like being in a huge group of humanity, ALL UUs! Imagine....



Elizabeth Vesto: General Assembly is an enriching experience in a myriad of ways. Socializing in a welcoming environment, inspiring services, and shopping for all kinds of UU items! My favorite part of GA was participating in the early morning small group spiritual practices. The hosts created a beautiful meditation room full of crystal statues and every morning a different UU GA Chaplain would come in and share their favorite spiritual practice. We experienced everything from lex divina to singing meditation, and incredible guided meditations.

The Total Church Experience CAUUC Spring Workshop & Annual Meeting Sat., May 21, 10 am to 2 pm at DuPage UU Church in Naperville

Please RSVP by May 18 by going to UUCicagoarea.org (or by emailing your intent to chicagoarea-uucouncil@yahoo.com). A \$7 contribution to help cover the day's food costs is suggested. The day's schedule:

- 9:40-10 am: Registration & socializing with a light breakfast.
- 10am: Welcome, opening remarks, & panel discussion on The Total Church Experience. CCUU members Lisa Bohne & Mike Gilley will be part of the panel. After the panel, we will break into groups to share with other lay leaders what has been working well and what has been challenging in your part of church life, to help others and receive the benefit of their insights, and to discuss how your aspect of church leadership fits into The Total Church Experience.
- 12:15pm: Lunch & time to network with other UUs from the Chicago area
- 1:00pm: CAUUC annual meeting

Alternate Methods of Giving to CCUU

If you prefer credit card or online giving to writing a check, there are a couple of options for giving to CCUU:

Countryside Express

If you would like to make regular monthly payments via credit card or via automatic withdrawal from your checking or savings, a form is available [on the church website](#) or in the church office. Submit the completed form to the congregational administrator for processing.

Manage your giving online

Giving online is easy and allows you to make one-time or recurring contributions and to view your complete online giving history from anywhere you have access to the Internet. Simply follow these easy steps:

1. Visit the church website at www.ccuu.org
2. Click on the Donate Now button,
3. Click on the Create Profile button, then
4. Follow the onscreen instructions

Make a contribution with a text message

- Simply send a text to 847-973-7344 with the amount you would like to contribute.
- Be sure to include the dollar sign before the amount. Example: \$25.
- Within a few minutes, you'll be sent a text with a link to register.
- Click on the link and enter your cardholder name and credit or debit card information.
- Once your registration is complete, you will receive a text verification and a receipt via email.
- For future giving, simply send a text with the amount you wish to give, and it will process automatically! If you have questions about giving-by-text, contact the church office for more information.

Contact the church office for more information.

Join POC for Cinco de Mayo

Partners for Our Communities (formerly known as Palatine Opportunity Center), one of our service partners, is holding their annual fundraising event on Thurs, May 5, 5 to 8 pm, at Falcon Park Rec Center, 2195 N Hicks Rd, Palatine. You will enjoy an authentic Mexican market, vendors, dancers, delicious food, Mariachi band, games, prizes, and much more. Tickets are \$50 each (adults only) and can be purchased online at <http://www.poc.news/> or by calling 847-776-9500 x222.

UU Women's Connection

Spring Conference ~ June 3-5

Join us at Pilgrim's Park, near Princeton, IL, a few miles from the I80 and I39 interchange. The theme is *Honoring Our Sacred Stories*, and the keynote speaker will be Countryside Church member Christine Organ on the importance of accepting, honoring, and sharing our stories. Register at www.uuwomensconnection.org.

Outside Groups Held at & Open to CCUU

Several outside groups use space at Countryside Church UU and are in alignment with our UU Principles and open to participation by all. There may be a participation fee or other requirements set by the group and which apply to all participants, regardless of CCUU affiliation.

Pride Youth provides a safe & confidential space for all high school youth who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBT) or who are questioning their sexual orientation. They meet on the 1st & 3rd Weds. More info: <http://angles.org/teens-young-adults/pride/social/>.

Transcend is a program of Youth Outlook which meets the 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month. It is a support group focusing on gender identity and is geared towards Trans youth, for 14-20 yr olds. For more info, talk to Kimberly Tilford or go to www.youth-outlook.org.

Journey Transgender Support Group is for anyone 18 or over (unless accompanied by a parent) who is transgender, gender queer, androgynous, or gender questioning; meets the 2nd & 4th Sundays. transgender_journey-subscribe@yahoo.com

Great Plains Zen Center. sits meditation on Sundays at 7 pm and offers monthly Intro to Zen workshops. For more info, go to www.greatplainszen.org.

AA. Men's Mtg: Saturday, 9am; Women's Mtg: Friday, 7:30pm

Job Search Circle (JSC) meets in Atherton Hall on Wednesdays, 9-11am. \$5/meeting. Dress code is business casual. Email: rmonahan@improve-ization.com

Career Communicators, a Toastmasters International Club dedicated to professional speaking. Meets the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of the month, 7-9 pm. For more info, www.careercommunicators.com.

St Hubert Job Ministry events are non-denominational, free, open to all occupations, and held at various member churches. For info, go to <http://www.sainthubert.org/ministries/job.html>.

Wellness House Programs

Countryside Church and Wellness House in Hinsdale are partnering to offer programs here at Countryside. Wellness House envisions a community where all people affected by cancer thrive. Offered at no cost, and as a complement to medical treatment, their programs educate, support and empower participants so they will improve their physical and emotional well-being.

Walk for Wellness House on May 1

This is a 3K Walk or 5K Run & is their biggest fundraiser of the year. For more info or to register, go to <http://walk.wellnesshouse.org>.

New Offering begins May 4: Stronger Together ~ Two Support Groups, One Time

Come together with other cancer patients and caregivers on the journey. Beginning May 4, the groups will meet the first Wednesday of the month, 7-8 pm, in classrooms 4 & 6. The groups are offered at no cost to participants. One-time phone registration is required. To register, contact Kelli Mitchell, 630-654-5197.

Hypnosis Group

This program of deep hypnosis is offered the first Saturday of the month and is open to anyone in our geographical area who has or has had cancer in any form and to their caretaking or family members. The program is led by our community minister, Dr. Giles, and uses hypnotism to promote healing, emotional resilience, & comprehensive stress management. *Space is limited. You must register, kmitchell@wellnesshouse.org or 630-654-5197.*

Free Community Meals

Several churches in the area will be offering free Summer Suppers, 6:30-8:00 pm, May through September (this coincides with the months when PADS shelters are not open). All are welcome! The schedule is posted on the bulletin board across from the church office, in the Our Members & Friends section. Every Saturday, Cross & Crown Lutheran Church, 1122 W Rand Road in Arlington Heights, serves breakfast at 9:30 am and lunch at Noon.

Mindful Journeys for UUs & friends

Peru: Always wanted to experience Machu Picchu? Join us March 25-April 5, 2017. Our journey will be filled with comfortable places to stay, Shamanic conversations, lovely food, water blessings at an old Inca spring, beautiful natural vistas, reflections while sitting on a mountain.

Portugal/ Spain, May 14-24, 2017, from Lisbon to Santiago de Compostela. Along the way, we enjoy soulful Fado music, a tile-making workshop, wine, port and culinary tastings, and a bit of a walk on the Camino. Imagine cruising down the Douro River tasting Port while reflecting on the scenic vineyard-covered hillsides.

Mindful Journeys are led by UU minister Wayne Walder from Toronto, Canada, www.nuuc.ca. To learn more about Mindful Journeys, go to <http://nuuc.ca/spiritual-growth/spiritual-practice/mindful-journeys/>

Upcoming Church Meetings & Events: May

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>This calendar shows upcoming Church meetings & events. All meetings and events held in the building are listed on the church website, under Events & Rentals - http://www.ccuu.org/programs-and-events/calendar. If your meeting or event is not listed, please submit a room reservation form (available in the office or on the website with the calendar) to the office.</i></p>						
<p>May 1 9 & 11 am Worship & RE 8:45 am Open Forum 10am & Noon Intro to CCUU 10:15am Race film series, 3 of 3 Noon Path to Membership class 12:15pm 20-30 Somethings 12:15pm RE Council Mtg 12:30pm Compassionate Comm 12:30pm Buddhist Study Group</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 10am Qigong 7pm Ministry Council</p>	<p>4 7pm World Religions class: Islam 7pm Wellness House: cancer support & caregivers groups 7pm Outreach Steering Council</p>	<p>5 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>May 7 10am Wellness Beyond Walls Journeys AFD Retreat</p>
<p>May 8 8:45 am Open Forum 9 & 11 am Worship & RE 10am & Noon Town Hall Mtg Noon Nominating Cttee Mtg 12:15pm Green Sanctuary Mtg</p>	<p>9 7pm Your Spacious Self</p>	<p>10 10am Qigong 7pm AHA Discussion 7pm Finance Cttee</p>	<p>11 10am Transitions Reading Group 10am Weds Chalice Circle 7pm Poetry Series</p>	<p>12 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>13 10am Memoir Makers 7pm Movies with Meaning</p>	<p>14 8:30am Climate Conference Circle Suppers (off-site)</p>
<p>May 15 10 am Worship & RE 8:30 am Open Forum 11am Congregational Annual Mtg Compassionate Communication, immed. following Annual mtg 2pm Walk in Woods with Interfaith Green Partners</p>	<p>16 9am Focus deadline</p>	<p>17 10am Qigong 7pm Worship Council</p>	<p>18 7pm Board of Trustees 7pm Journey Inward 7pm World Religions class: Humanism</p>	<p>19 7pm Thurs Chalice Circle 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>20 6pm Chalice Circle Potluck dinner</p>	<p>21 8:30am CAUUC Spring Workshop @DuPage Unitarian Church, Naperville</p>
<p>May 22 8:30 am Open Forum 10 am Worship & RE 11am Fellowship 11:15am Internship Cttee Mtg 5pm Vegan Potluck Dinner</p>	<p>23 7pm Last Mondays Book Discussion (4th Monday in lieu of Mem'l Day)</p>	<p>24 10am Qigong</p>	<p>25 Focus publication 10am Transitions Reading Group 7pm World Religions class: UIJism</p>	<p>26 10am Transitions 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 9:15am Fem. Divine 7pm Drum Circle</p>
<p>May 29 10 am Worship & RE 8:30 am Open Forum 11am Fellowship 11:30am Compassionate Comm</p>	<p>30 Memorial Day</p>	<p>31 10am Qigong 7pm Experiencing God Cov Grp</p>	<p>June 1 7pm Wellness House: cancer support & caregivers groups</p>	<p>2 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 10am Wellness Beyond Walls</p>

Focus

Published by Countryside Church UU

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Karen Greenland Joy Simon
Barbara Griggs Chris Smith
Kathi Hillyer Kimberly Tilford

Melanie Schikore

For assistance from Lay or Care Ministry,
please call Ken or Jane or Rev. Hilary.

Our Covenant

We unite to strengthen the bonds of kinship among all persons, to promote human dignity, and to increase reverence for life's creating, sustaining, and transforming power through worship, study, and service.

Our Vision

We come together as a congregation to inspire our quests for the spiritual, ethical, and meaningful in life and to advance respect, compassion, and justice in the wider world.

Our Mission

Countryside is seen as the growing voice and source of liberal religion in the northwest Chicago suburbs by...

- creating a place of inclusiveness, welcome, connectedness, compassion and respect
- providing for the spiritual and intellectual growth of members of all ages
- cultivating a vital future for our congregation and community through thoughtful stewardship of our financial resources and our environment
- acting on a social conscience

Upcoming Focus Deadlines

Submit all articles by 9am to ccuu@ccuu.org

- ◆ May 16 (to be publ May 25)
- ◆ June 20 (to be publ Jun 29)
- ◆ July 18 (to be publ. July 27)

Between *Focus* issues, written communication is via E-Updates & the *Sunday Times* insert to the Order of Worship. Submission deadline for e-updates & *Sunday Times* is Weds at 9 am.

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