

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbus, IN

UUCCI NEWSLETTER

MAY 2025 ISSUE



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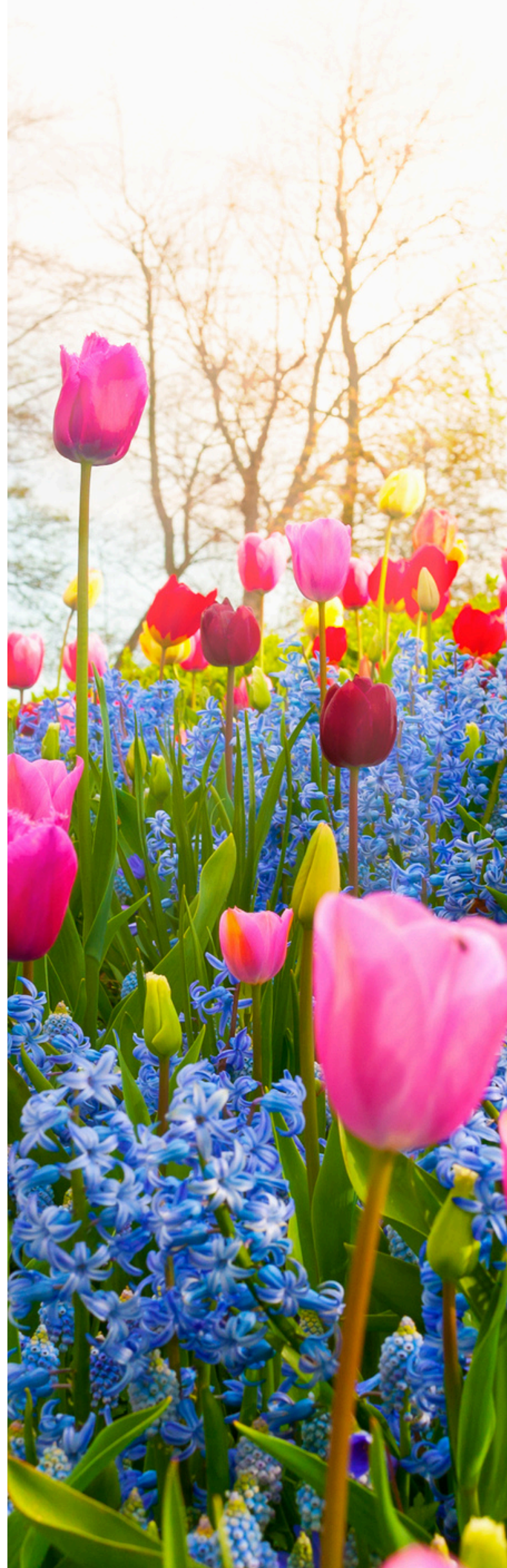
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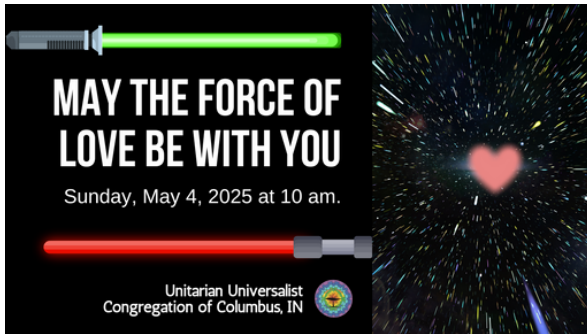
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SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday Mornings at 10 am



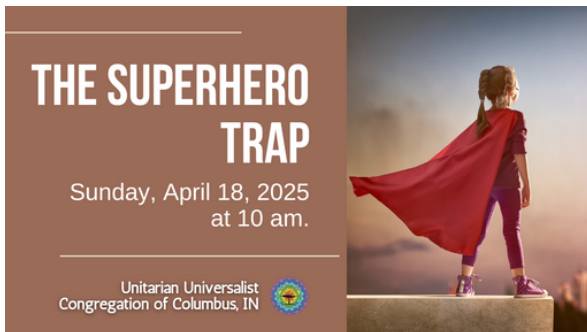
May the Force of Love Be With You Sunday, May 4, 2025

Join Rev. Nic Cable and Adrienne Summerlot for this all ages service. Together we will lean into the lessons we learn from Star Wars. How do we center ourselves in the force of love, welcome resistance as a spiritual practice, and find the support we need to live into our values as Unitarian Universalists with alliances? Bring your open minds, loving hearts, and courageous actions and plan to stay after service for more opportunities to play, learn, and grow together.



Call This Place Acorn Sunday, May 11, 2025

Octavia Butler is considered the mother of afrofuturism, a genre of science fiction developed by, about, and for primarily African Americans in the United States. In her essential two part Earthseed Chronicles, Butler introduces the reader to a young girl who envisions a new religion, a new community, and a new future. Rev. Nic will reflect on the power and impact afrofuturism has played on our ability to imagine new worlds where all can not merely survive, but thrive!



The Superhero Trap Sunday, May 18, 2025

Heroes and superheroes have captured the imagination of people and cultures for generations, even millennia. How does the notion of heroes shape our imaginations and sense of responsibility as Unitarian Universalists. Rev. Nic will talk about the potential superhero trap and how we can avoid it as we continue to celebrate love and work for justice in the world today.



Shared Sacred Space: The Unimaginable Next Frontier Sunday, May 25, 2025

Star Trek and other stories that explore space have opened new frontiers into our imagination and wonder about life and the great unknown. How might Star Trek illuminate the great unfolding and journey we are on today as we foster shared sacred space not out beyond the sun, but deep within our own interfaith campus where we move and make our living? Rev. Nic will invite us to travel to new planes of existence to consider how sharing space may prove a new frontier once unimaginable to be a trek worthy of taking.

All are welcome to join us for Sunday services at 10 am.

After service, there will be coffee and refreshments in the Fellowship Hall

SHAVINGS FROM THE BOARD



In April, the Board of Trustees discussed several exciting ideas about the future (2025-2027 and then to 2030) for the congregation.

We invite you to a Board Town Hall meeting on May 4 after Sunday service. We will provide updates on what we have been thinking about these last few months since investigating (and turning down) the chance of acquiring the large piece of land behind us.

This came out of the on-going work of our Property Committee, which in partnership with HSSI is moving cautiously towards the idea of a Capital Campaign and a push to build a large multi-purpose building on our interfaith campus. Representatives from HSSI will join us at the May 4 th Town Hall meeting. Please give them a warm welcome.

Our Stewardship and Membership Committee is enthusiastically coming up with creative ways for us to easily contribute resources, including a possible new approach to the annual fundraising auction. Stay tuned!

The Finance Committee is taking a deep dive into our various board policies and guidance documents to ensure that we go forward with confidence from year to year meeting our obligations. This includes our administrative responsibilities towards staff, our insurance coverage, and our relationship with the UUA.

We happily welcomed David Windley back to our monthly in-person Board of Trustees meetings. He has been attending them via Zoom these past several months while in Florida with Anne.

Dick Boyce and I met with the Building and Grounds team early in April (between storms) to talk about the condition of the building and what might need maintenance very soon. We also inspected mysterious wheel ruts in the backyard while taking a walk-about.

May you have a lovely May!

Cynthia Scott
President, Board of Trustees



This photo shows, left to right: Donna Kuhlman, Dick Boyce, Donna Stanley, and Gabe Pope. Jon Fischer was there too.

Music at UUCCI: _____

SONGS AS POLITICAL WEAPONS

By Louise Hillery

In the 1953 film “The Wild One,” Hoosier native James Dean plays a rebellious biker named Johnnie. When someone asks him, “What are you rebelling against, Johnnie?” he famously replies, “Whaddaya got?”

Today, if someone asks, “What you are protesting?” there are so many causes, it’s hard to know where to start. Music plays a vital role in protest movements. While words can stir our brains, music can stir our hearts and focus our energies. This was true in the Revolutionary War days of “Yankee Doodle,” although other Revolutionary songs are not so well known today.

From the beginnings of slavery through the Civil War, African American spirituals were composed by enslaved persons expressing Christian teachings in the context of slavery, such as “Go Down, Moses,” “Nobody Knows the Trouble I’ve Seen,” “Steal Away,” “Swing Low, Sweet chariot,” “Michael, Row the Boat Ashore,” “No More Auction Block for Me,” and many more.

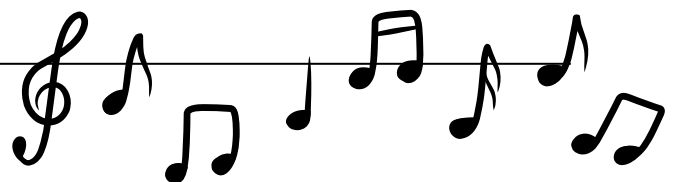
Opposing sides in the War Between the States were aroused by “Mine Eyes have Seen the Glory of the Coming of the Lord (Battle Hymn of the Republic)” or “I wish I was in the land of cotton (Dixie).” Both sides could shed a tear to the tunes of “Tramp, Tramp, Tramp, the Boys are Marching” and “Tenting on the Old Camp Ground” or “When Johnny Comes Marching Home Again.”

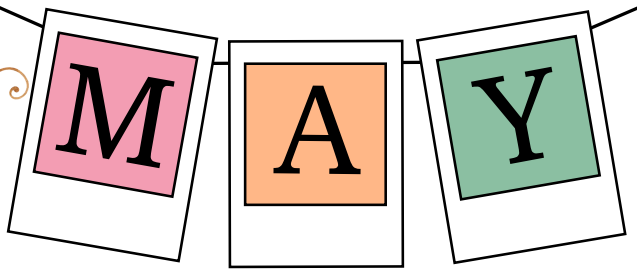


Photo By Richard Hurd from Leland, USA - Wisconsin Protests 02-17-2011 10054.jpg, CC BY 2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=144444767>

In the 1950s, 60s, and 70s, fervent sentiments found expression in “We Shall Overcome” “Oh Freedom,” “We Shall Not Be Moved,” “Ain’t Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Round” and “Blowin’ in the Wind,” and “A Change is Gonna Come.” In the same era, another group of Americans responded to “An Okie from Muskogee,” “God Bless the U. S. A.,” and “The Ballad of the Green Beret,” as Americans fought each other in the streets and in homes across the country.

If thinking about these songs stirs your feelings, then you can understand why songs are sung to arouse and unify crowds at today’s protest demonstrations.





CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY

**Adrienne
Summerlot**



Children's Ministry Coordinator
children@uucci.org

Seedling and Sprouts (infants-preschool) meet every Sunday in the Earth Room with our caregivers to meet new friends, share stories, sing, and play!



May 4th- Star Wars All Ages Service

We encourage families to attend service together. Themed materials are available in the busy bags at the Narthex. Classes do not meet. Childcare is provided! We especially welcome kids to participate and engage fully in the service as they are able. Plan to stay after service for special activities!

May 11th- Kindergarten and up will explore and play together.

Weather permitting, we may play field games outside.

May 18th- Our last traditional classes of the year.

Kindergarten-4th grade will gather in the Makerspace to show and share about their favorite superheroes and create their own superhero.

UUth group (5th grade and up) will try their hands at ice cream making with Donna S. and Dennis.

May 25th- Kindergarten and up will face new adventures together as they try to figure out puzzles and try their hands at a scavenger hunt for the UU Values.

**Searching for helping hands and loving hearts
to volunteer with our children and youth
in June and July!**



Would you love to help spend 1 hour on 1 Sunday morning having fun with our amazing kids?

Sign up here for a Sunday that works for you!

Adrienne will be in touch with more information and support!

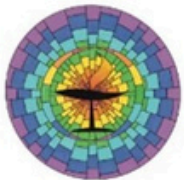
IMAGINE 2030 UPDATE

WITH LIZ CLELAND

OUR GAME PLAN

Can you imagine the next month or year or five years? Sometimes it's hard for me to imagine the next week. But how can you even know where you're going if you don't know where you have been or where you are right now? These were some of the questions I asked myself as an infant to this congregation given the immense task of leading the Imagine 2030 committee. Luckily, I have an amazing team to support us all in this work.

I am so excited to share with you that we have a plan to discover, define, and develop our Commitments within the five Strategic Objectives as part of the Imagine 2030 project. I hope the infographic below can help explain what a Commitment is and how we will start defining our Goals.



Strategic Objectives with Focus Areas

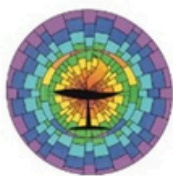
* These Focus Areas were added after Board agreement to round out the Strategic Objective



OUR COMMITMENTS

If you oversee any Commitments here at UUCCI, in the next few months you'll be talking to either Dave Windley, Nicole Wiltrout, Sandy McCoy, or myself about your contributions. We feel it is very important to first discover the who, what, when, where, why, and how you facilitate your work to enable our team to better define the Commitments. From there we can more easily see gaps which call for improvements and peaks where we can embrace the momentum for progress. Then we look forward to working with you on developing actionable Goals that propel us into 2030 and beyond. Now can you start to imagine our future? It looks pretty bright to me.

This is an electrifying project, but will be quite laborious at the onset. Thank you for your patience as we start this critical work. And more importantly thank you for all you do! I am always astonished by our vitality and proud to call myself a UU.



What are Commitments?

Commitments are the way in which we fulfill our Strategic Objectives.

They can be Gatherings, Initiatives, Communications, Programs, Trainings, or any Engagement that has a measurable Goal.

EXAMPLES

Strategic Objective	Focus Area	Commitment	Goal
We Foster Connection and Learning	Music Ministry	Hold monthly conversations to better understand how music moves members and friends	Host 10 people for 45 minutes on a different topic each month in 2025
We Foster Connection and Learning	Music Ministry	Increase professional music staff up to 20 hours per week	Present one infographic two weeks before budget discussions to 100 congregation members with call to action for board approval of funding

**Learn what plans are
being laid for the future
of our shared grounds**

Expansion - Connections - Partnership

Town Hall Meeting

WITH UUCCI AND
SRI GANESH MANDIR



**A 30 minute
Discussion**

**All are
invited to
attend**

Sunday, May 4th

In the Sanctuary 11:30 am - 12:30 pm



AGING IN PLACE: THE TOOLS YOU NEED

SUNDAY APRIL 6TH, 11:30A

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CONGREGATION OF COLUMBUS**

MODIFY



ALI STEARNS

learn what
modifications
can be made
to your home



ORGANIZE



CHERYL SMITH

learn how to
organize and
declutter your
home



ASSIST



HEATHER MEANS

learn about
options for
assistance in
your home



PLAN



ELIZABETH JAMES

learn how to
establish a plan
for aging and
what legal
documents to
have in order

Voelz, Reed, & Mount, LLC
knowledge · experience · solutions

VOTER EXPECTATIONS, ELECTIONS, AND CURRENT EVENTS

WITH DR. MARJORIE HERSHEY

Thursday, May 8th

6:30 - 8:30 pm

Doors open at 6 pm

**Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Columbus
7850 W Goeller Blvd Columbus, IN**

Professor Marjorie Hershey is nationally recognised for her research on US political parties, elections, and media in politics. She will discuss issues that impacted the 2024 election, current policies and actions. Discussion may include key topics such as the balance of power between the executive branch, the judicial branch, and Congress, the media, indications for the 2026 elections and the democratic process. A question and answer session will follow.

**This event is co-hosted by Columbus Community United,
Rise Up Columbus, Bartholomew County Indivisible, and
The League of Women Voters, Brown County.**





GAMES



FRIENDS



OUTDOORS



FUN!

INTERFAITH PEACE CAMP

JUNE 2ND-6TH

AGES 5-12 YEARS OLD

OPTIONAL FAMILY CAMPOUT

JUNE 6TH-7TH



SCAN
ME!



VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

Last June we welcomed the return of Peace Camp with 50 kids from our Interfaith Columbus partners spending the week together focused on peace, learning together, and building community.

Do you have fond memories of camp?
Do you have a skill or passion to share?

We need MANY helping hands to help make camp possible. 1 hour, 1 day, or the entire week. We have many ways you can be involved, including behind the scenes!


CLICK HERE TO VOLUNTEER!



UUCI



YARD SALE



JUNE 27-28
8 AM
UNTIL
4 PM



WEEKEND
SALE



PICK UP

NEW TREASURES,
APPLIANCES, TOYS,
ART, AND MORE!

DROP OFF

DONATED GOODS
TO SUPPORT A
GOOD CAUSE!

7850 W. GOELLER BLVD. COLUMBUS, IN 47201

UUCCI PROGRAMS

MAY 2025

Death Cafe

Thursday, May 1 at 2 pm

Death Cafes provide a chance to be together to eat cake and talk about death. These relaxed, interesting conversations on death are fluid; you may choose to attend one or both sessions. UUCCI members Cate Hyatt and Sandy McCoy will serve as gentle guides to keep the conversation flowing and to honor all persons' own views and confidentiality. The May Meeting will focus on legacy work including writing obituaries and ethical wills

Town Hall Meeting

Sunday, May 4 at 11:30-12pm

Rev Nic & Board will host a Town Hall in the sanctuary about Future Building Campaign. Child Care available

DIY Star Wars Art

Sunday, May 4 at 12pm

Create your own Star Wars Inspired Art with Cynthia Scott in the Makerspace

DIY Protest Posters

Sunday, May 4 at 12pm

Join Cate Hyatt in the Elsie Weekly room to put your creative skills for social justice into action to make Posters for upcoming rallies and marches.

Pastoral Care Team Meeting

Wednesday, May 7 at 2 pm

Our Pastoral Care Team helps us to stay connected with the members of our congregation. If you would like to share a special announcement, birthday, a joy, or a sorrow in our Friday Reminder email, please reach out to Marcia Walker at mwalker@epowerc.net

Choir Practice

Wednesday, May 7 at 7 pm

For more information, contact Louise at music@uucci.org.

Women's Chalice Circle

Thursday, May 8 at 10 am

Chalice Circles are facilitated, small group gatherings, which meet once a month at UUCCI. The gatherings foster conversation on Monthly Themes and build community in a small setting. Please contact Sharon Mangas for more info at docmangas@comcast.net

Voter Expectations, Elections, and Current Events With Dr. Marjorie Hershey

Thursday, May 8 at 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Professor Marjorie Hershey is nationally recognised for her research on US political parties, elections, and media in politics. She will discuss issues that impacted the 2024 election, current policies and actions. Discussion may include key topics such as the balance of power between the executive branch, the judicial branch, and Congress, the media, indications for the 2026 elections and the democratic process. A question and answer session will follow. This event is co-hosted by Columbus Community United, Rise Up Columbus, Bartholomew County Indivisible, and The League of Women Voters, Brown County.

Spiritual Living Circle

Monday, May 12 at 11:30 am

Spiritual Living Circle meets the 2nd Monday of each month from 11:30 am until 1:00 pm in the library at UUCCI. Join us for a time of meditation, reflection, and discussion. We use the Spiritual Living Magazine and a metaphysical book of group choice as our source materials. For more information, please contact Mary Harmon or Anita Naanes.

UUCCI PROGRAMS

MAY 2025

Choir Practice

Wednesday, May 14 at 7 pm

For more information, contact Louise at music@uucci.org.

Hymnody discussions

Sunday, May 18 at 11:30 am

Hymn Talks explores and debates our favorite or not-so-favorite hymns in one-hour Sunday discussion sessions. Contact Louise at music@uucci.org. Childcare provided!

Women's Group

SUNDAY, May 18 at 4:00 pm

(please note the change of date from the usual Tuesday meeting dates)

We will gather at Jan Lucas's house to celebrate Beltane, the ancient Gaelic festival marking the coming of summer.

7070 S 650 W Columbus, 47201. Carpooling is encouraged. There will be food, activities, fun and conversation! Please bring a dish to share. Feel free to dress in loose flowing clothing, jewelry or accessories that represent themes of nature, or whatever makes you comfortable (we plan to be outside for much of the time, if the weather permits). More details will be forthcoming in the Friday reminders and by email. To be added to the email list contact Carol Kostrzewsky at ckostrze@iu.edu. Women's Group is open to all women, those who identify as women, members and friends of UUCCI. We welcome those who have attended before or have never come to women's group in the past. No need to sign up, just show up!

Band Practice

Wednesday, May 21 at 5:30 pm

For more information, contact Louise at music@uucci.org.

Choir Practice

Wednesday, May 21 at 7 pm

For more information, contact Louise at music@uucci.org.

Band Practice

Wednesday, May 28 at 7 pm

For more information, contact Louise at music@uucci.org.




COLUMBUS INTERFAITH

EVENTS AT UUCI INTERFAITH CAMPUS

INDIAN DIASPORA OF COLUMBUS, IN
OBSERVES
A VIGIL FOR VICTIMS OF PAHALGAM TERROR ATTACK

Place : SRI GANESH MANDIR PREMISES
Friday, May 2nd 2025
6.00 pm - 6.30 pm



We mourn the tragic loss of innocent Indian lives in a barbaric terror attack targeting Hindus.
Every life Lost is A call for Justice, A call for Unity

We urge everyone to come together in prayer and solidarity to remember the victims

**Indian Diaspora Of Columbus, IN
Observes A Vigil For Victims Of
Pahalgam Terror Attacks
Friday, May 2 at 6 pm
At Sri Ganesh Mandir**

All are invited to attend and show their support for our neighbors, and to remember the victims.



**Columbus Interfaith
Dinner & Learning**
Wednesday, May 14th

6pm- Pitch In Dinner
7pm- Community Learning & Conversation

This month we spend our time together shining light on mental health awareness and how we as a community can respond, connect, and support initiatives and share resources.

Join us on the
Columbus Interfaith Campus at
7850 W. Goeller Blvd
Columbus, IN 47201

**Columbus Interfaith Dinner and Learning
Wednesday, May 14th
At UUCI**

6pm- Pitch In Dinner
7pm- Community Learning and Conversation

This month, we spend our time together shining light on mental health awareness and how we can respond, connect, and support initiatives and share resources.

[Link to Columbus Interfaith Facebook Event](#)