

# UUCCI NEWSLETTER

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*JANUARY 2023 ISSUE*

UUCCI.ORG

*Splinters From*  
**The Board**

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# 2023

LOOKING  
FORWARD  
WITH LINDA  
IWAMURO

INTRODUCING  
*Elizabeth*  
*Valencia*

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**NO ORDINARY TIME**  
BY LOUISE HILLERY



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# POSTCARDS FROM THE MINISTER

*Hello Friends!*

I hope you are well as you say goodbye to 2022 and hello to 2023. You may have some things you want to leave behind in the year that was or new things you want to take up as you set resolutions for the year ahead. For me, I begin this year on a different type of journey than I have ever been on: Sabbatical. This journey will take me on a deep exploration of my roots—both ancestral and spiritual. As I recall my roots, I hope to explore the spiritual discipline of staying put, of putting down roots here in Columbus, Indiana. What does it take to become rooted in place, personally, professionally, and as a family? These are some of the themes I look forward to exploring on my sabbatical.

During this time, I will be regularly writing reflections on my journey on a website called Substack. If you are interested, follow along at [revcable.substack.com](http://revcable.substack.com).

With Gratitude,  
Rev. Nic Cable



In our monthly newsletters, UUCCI Office Admin, Brittany Phillips, will share highlights from my sabbatical journey. Stay tuned for more updates as we continue through 2023.

# INTRODUCING ELIZABETH VALENCIA

Beginning in January, Elizabeth will lead seven services throughout the sabbatical on themes related to personal and collective identity, change, transition, multicultural and interfaith community, and the challenges of sustaining the work of justice in the world. Her first service will be January 8 and I hope you will not miss any of them! Here is a little more information about Elizabeth and her journey to UUCCI:



Elizabeth Valencia, *she/they/ella*  
UUCCI Sabbatical Preacher

Elizabeth was the Intern Minister at All Souls Unitarian Church of Indianapolis until June 2022 at which time she served as Summer Pastoral Care Minister. She was born to Mexican parents, and was raised in California. She is a Muslim who converted from Catholicism in 2001. She brings with her into her ministry a diverse spiritual history and deep passion for doing justice in the world. Elizabeth currently serves as Affiliated Community Multicultural Ministry Partner at ASUC, while pursuing Ministerial Fellowship through the Unitarian Universalist Association.



With the presence of both Rev. Mary Moore and Elizabeth Valencia, we might catch sight of a wider view of our journey as a congregation. I look forward to celebrating how far we have come since you entered a time of interim in the summer of 2015, and where we might go from here as we prepare to enter a time of sabbatical in 2023.

# UPCOMING SUNDAY SERVICES

## Sunday Mornings at 10 am

JAN 01 *Dancing into the New Year*  
*All Ages Service*

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Led by Brandy Wills

JAN 08 *Part 1: Before We Begin*

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Guest Speaker Elizabeth Valencia

JAN 15 *Side with Love Launch*  
*All Ages Service*

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Led by Adrienne Summerlot

JAN 22 *Part 2: On Second Glance: Becoming a*  
*Community that Welcomes Change*

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Guest Speaker Elizabeth Valencia

JAN 29 *Service with Sarah Gettie McNeill*

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Guest Speaker Rev. Sarah Gettie McNeill



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# SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD

As I write this, we have bid Rev. Nic and his family farewell as they prepare to begin the Finding Our Roots Sabbatical on January 1. The Sabbatical team, Ministry teams, staff and board covenanted to do their part while Rev. Nic is away.

As you read this, we have begun our own journey, as a congregation, toward exploring our roots during Rev. Nic's absence. Please look for announcements from the Sabbatical Team in the coming months for exciting opportunities as we use the time to dig deeper into our roots.

Although the work of the Board of Trustees continues without the counsel of Rev. Nic, the Board knows what work is ahead of us in the coming months and we begin to execute.

Our 2022 pledge drive is in its closing days and we are grateful for the response you have shown. We have effectively achieved our goal of \$206,000. We can begin 2023 with confidence that our plans can move forward.

You may have noticed a message board in the Narthex. We call this "Board on Board." Each Sunday, a board member will be present to be available to the congregation. Ask a question, express a concern, tell us what you are liking/or not. This is our opportunity to serve you on a personal basis and we hope you will take advantage of it. Our course, our interaction is not limited to Sunday mornings. You can find our contact information in Breeze for 2023 board members:

Linda Iwamuro (President), Lin Montgomery (Past President), Lori Swanson (Vice President), Scott Rittenhouse (Treasurer), Patti Wade (Secretary) and Trustees at Large: Tom Lee, Sandy McCoy, Adam Reuter and Kate Slabosky.

In closing, Happy New Year, Stay Warm, Stay Well and Stay Safe! May 2023 be all that you hope for you and yours.

Linda Iwamuro  
Board President

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# NO ORDINARY TIME

A friend from childhood, who is now the prioress of a Benedictine convent in northern England, posts regularly on Facebook. I enjoyed her personal reflection last January when she posted a heartfelt statement:

Today we return to Ordinary Time; I love Ordinary Time!!!

In the Roman Catholic liturgical year, Ordinary Time is the long period between the Advent/Christmas season and the beginning of Lent (also known as Shrove Tuesday or Mardis Gras).

I love ordinary time too! But this year our late winter / early spring will not be ordinary. Rev. Nic has scheduled 3 outstanding special weekends during his Sabbatical Leave, 7 additional services featuring Elizabeth Valencia, and 6 services led by Children's Coordinator Adrienne Summerlot.

Since it is my responsibility to coordinate each of those services, I will do my best, along with the Sunday Services Team, to ensure that there are no ordinary services among them.

We can choose to grow as individuals and as a congregation by taking an active role in determining our own future. Our sabbatical speakers will point the way to new possibilities, but only we can decide to take the steps. So let's all breathe a sigh of relief that the holidays are over, then open ourselves to the growth and renewal that is a natural part of springtime and life.

Louise Hillery  
Acting Music Director

"The key is in  
not spending time,  
but in investing it."  
– Stephen R. Covey.



## UUCCI GLOBAL ACTION / UUSC TEAM INVITES YOU TO GET INVOLVED

The main focus of Global Action is UUCCI supporting the Katalie Orphanage in Kenya that our congregation has been involved with for over a decade. KIVA microloans is another area that our congregation does to provide small loans to individual entrepreneurs throughout the world. We also support an adult literacy program in Haiti.

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) is a nonprofit that advances human rights and social justice through grassroots collaborations. They support and defend the rights of people displaced due to climate, conflict, or economic hardships and respond to the humanitarian crises as partners with people whose access to aid is most limited. Initiatives this year include climate justice, responding to natural and manmade disasters, to address systematic inequalities.

Central American Migrant Justice -- all people have the rights to safety, human dignity, and a process to seek asylum. UUSC partners with organizations on the ground working to advance and promote justice for Central Americans.

Cathy Caldie

Mark your calendars for April 9th, when our Global Action Team will offer a taco bar after service to raise funds for Katalie Orphanage!

## NEWS FROM THE RACIAL JUSTICE TEAM!

In recent months, RJT has worked to keep you aware of the planned process to revise Article II of the UUA bylaws. Article II is titled Principles and Purposes and includes the 7 Principles and the 6 Sources with which we are so familiar. The UUA Board charged the Article II Study Commission (A2SC) to do this periodic review, being sure that proposed changes should articulate core UU theological values, especially love. At the same time of this formal process, a grassroots movement proposed a new 8th Principle encouraging growth to become an anti-racist, anti-oppressive, multi-cultural community.

The A2SC published a draft of their work in late October which incorporated the promise of the proposed 8th Principle. It clearly states values and includes text for clarity and to underscore the idea of covenant. When Rev Dennis McCarty was in our pulpit on Nov. 27th, he shared this draft. [You can read it here.](#) Dennis reminded us that this is a draft and that change is likely. The formal proposed revision goes to the UUA Board in January. There is a planned amendment opportunity for General Assembly (GA) delegates in May. A vote will be taken at GA, whether to advance the revision to the 2024 GA. If that passes, the revision will replace the current Article II of the bylaws.

It will be interesting to follow this process and to see how the final revision is shaped. RJT will try to help you stay apprised of the action. We may place links in the Friday Reminder as we learn more. You are encouraged to consider participating in GA as a delegate.

Chris Kevitt



# THE IN-BETWEEN TIMES

Few people in Indiana would claim that January is their favorite time of year. Between the cold, grey landscape outdoors and the post-holiday mess and chaos indoors, this season can feel a little dull compared to the festive weeks that came before. Our family calls this liminal time of the year "the in-between times"; a time where we all can sit for a moment and rest after the rushing about from December, and can save worries about Springtime seeds for another day.



Though my daughter, Aurora, is much less fond of being stuck in the house during these chilly weeks, I love that it gives us a peaceful time to spend together without rushing around or traveling. Some of my favorite memories as a mother are during these calm days of creating our "Winter nest" of comfort in our home. Our spirits found much needed time to rest and heal while learning to knit scarves for loved ones, baking homemade bread for the first time, or dipping candles to light during these dark, cozy dinners.

These last few months have been very busy as everyone prepares for Nic to embark on his sabbatical journey. While the work is far from over, I would like to invite you to lay down your worries for a moment, and celebrate the stillness and peace of the "in between times". Spring will come, amazing events will fill your calendar in the coming weeks, and our congregation will continue to create meaningful, inspiring programs for all. In the meantime, I hope you find some time to rest, enjoy an activity that nourishes your spirit, and create comfort and light around you and your loved ones.



**Brittany Phillips**  
Office Administrator



# START THE NEW YEAR WITH A DANCE PARTY!

## All Ages Worship Services

These worship services are designed so that whether you're an introvert or extrovert, tactile or cerebral, younger or older, active or still, new to UUCCI or familiar- this worship is for you! Children of all ages are welcome and encouraged to stay in worship. Childcare is available in our Earth Room for those more comfortable staying with our caring providers.

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## January 1 Dancing into the New Year- All Ages Service

Music moves us to sing, dance, clap, connect with others, feel liberated, and to find joy! We invite you to join us for a service that helps you connect with music and movement as we usher in this New Year.

## January 1 - 11:15 pm Raising Unitarian Universalists (RUUs)



Adrienne Summerlot will lead us in creating family covenants and help us think about how to bring ritual into our homes

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## January 15 Side with Love Launch- All Ages Service



Side with Love is a public advocacy campaign sponsored by the UUA. Join Adrienne Summerlot for a service that will help us to connect with our shared practices of faith and justice. What is love calling you to do? Learn more about 30 Days of Love here.

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## UUCCI PROGRAMS

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### Get Involved

There is always something happening at UUCCI. Here are a few of the upcoming discussion circles, celebrations, and volunteer opportunities that are coming up in January. Many of these events repeat each month, so you can always catch the next one if you're snowed in this time around!



### Raising Unitarian Universalists (RUUs)

Sunday, January 1 at 11:15 am

RUUs invites families with children to discuss activities and events. Drop in to connect with other parents raising UU kids! Childcare provided. Playground space is available for older kids.

### Pastoral Care Team Meeting

Wednesday, January 4 at 1:00 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](mailto:mwalker@epowerc.net).

### Circle of Song

Thursday, January 5 at 7m

The purpose of Circle of Song is to get together as friends and sing just for the fun of it. Some people like to sing, but don't feel that choir performance is the thing for them. We'll sing a few hymns, a few folk songs, and whatever songs people request. With Sondra Bolte's guitar to help us, and Louise at piano for songs that are not guitar-friendly we can sing most any song you can think of.

### Sunday Service Team Meeting

Friday, January 6 at 10:30 am

Members of our Sunday Service Team will gather to discuss and organize the exciting upcoming services for this month.

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## UUCCI PROGRAMS (CONTINUED)

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### Crone Wisdom Circle

Sunday, January 8 at 12:45 pm

Are you a UUCCI woman over 50? Interested in exploring this landscape of aging in a supportive context? Curious about what a crone wisdom circle might offer you and other women? Join us and connect with other crones as we create a new circle opportunity here in the UUCCI community.

Questions? Contact Lori - [loriswanson.cmt@gmail.com](mailto:loriswanson.cmt@gmail.com) or Nancy [nlolson572@gmail.com](mailto:nlolson572@gmail.com).

### Second Sunday Forum:

#### Woke-ism and the Public Sphere

Sunday, January 8 at 11:30 am

What is Wokeism? Join us as we unravel the complicated history of this controversial term and highlight ideas from Reverend Nic's sermon on the Powers and Pitfalls of GroupThink and Reverend McCarty's sermon on The Challenge of Beloved Community.

### Our Whole Lives (OWL)

Sunday, January 8 at 4:00 pm

Our Whole Lives (OWL) is a comprehensive, holistic sexuality education for grades 7-9. For more information, contact Sunny Carrier at [youth@uucci.org](mailto:youth@uucci.org)

### Spiritual Living Circle

Monday, January 9 at 12:30 pm

Spiritual Living Circle meets the 2nd Monday of each month from 12:30pm until 2:00pm 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.

### Chalice Circle

Wednesday, January 11 at 10:00 am

For the coming year the Chalice Circle will meet on the second Wednesday of each month (beginning October 12) from 10 to 12 noon in the UUCCI Library. Chalice Circles gives participants an opportunity to get to know others while developing a deeper self-knowledge by sharing their lives in small, facilitated groups. The spirit of community radiates outward, fostering a sense of kinship and increasing connection to the congregation as a whole and to the larger community.

### Board Meeting

Thursday, January 19 at 6:30 pm

The Board of Trustees meets on the second Thursday of the month in the Elsie Weekly Room.

### Our Whole Lives (OWL)

Sunday, January 22 at 4:00 pm

Our Whole Lives (OWL) is a comprehensive, holistic sexuality education for grades 7-9. For more information, contact Sunny Carrier at [youth@uucci.org](mailto:youth@uucci.org)

### Building & Grounds Team Meeting

Wednesday, January 25 at 5:00 pm

If you're wanting to volunteer, this is a great place to start! If you are interested in joining the Building and Grounds team or lending a hand, please contact Donna Stanley at [dstan52@frontier.com](mailto:dstan52@frontier.com), Jon Fischer at [farmlbrewer@gmail.com](mailto:farmlbrewer@gmail.com), or Michael Greven at [mgecosourceinc@gmail.com](mailto:mgecosourceinc@gmail.com)

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## UUCCI PROGRAMS (CONTINUED)

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### Crone Wisdom Circle via Zoom Thursday, January 26 at 7:00 pm

Are you a UUCCI woman over 50? Interested in exploring this landscape of aging in a supportive context? Curious about what a crone wisdom circle might offer you and other women? Join us by Zoom and connect with other crones as we create a new circle opportunity here in the UUCCI community.

Questions? Contact Lori -  
loriswanson.cmt@gmail.com or Nancy  
nlolson572@gmail.com.

Join Zoom Meeting at the link below  
<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/9866716184>  
Meeting ID: 986 671 6184

### Our Whole Lives (OWL) Sunday, January 29 at 4:00 pm

Our Whole Lives (OWL) is a comprehensive, holistic sexuality education for grades 7-9. For more information, contact Sunny Currier at [youth@uucci.org](mailto:youth@uucci.org)

## Find "Your People"

Are you wanting to get involved and meet new people, but aren't sure where to start?

No problem! Reach out to our admin Brittany Phillips at [admin@uucci.org](mailto:admin@uucci.org) to learn more about events and groups that you might enjoy.



# COLUMBUS INTERFAITH

Columbus Interfaith Campus is a space where many different spiritual communities come together to celebrate and support each other. Here are a few of the events being hosted this month by the communities we share our campus with.



## Full Moon Celebration: Wolf Moon

Friday, January 6 at 5:00 pm

Celebrate the Full Wolf Moon with food, fire, and friends! Wolf themed crafts and activities will be available for the kids, and there will be a lunar ritual for adults.



## Interfaith Meeting

Wednesday, January 11 at 6:00 pm

Each month, the guiding members of Columbus Interfaith meet to discuss upcoming events, organize the shared calendar for the campus space, and share support.



## Interfaith Campus Committee Meeting

Wednesday, January 11 at 7:00 pm at Sri Ganesh mandir

Each month, the UUCCI Building & Grounds Team will meet with the guiding members of Columbus Interfaith meet to discuss our shared space, shared expenses, and projects that we can initiate to build better relationships between our communities and local neighbors.



## Spiritual Tea Party

Friday, January 13 at 5:00 pm

All are welcome to join us for a fun, informative tea party! Put on your favorite slightly-over-the-top outfit and accessories for a tea party with delightfully eccentric friends. During this fancy affair, we will discuss the many medicinal benefits of our favorite teas while sampling a variety of flavors (along with some sweets & sandwiches). Finish with some good old fashioned fortunetelling! We will learn the art of tea leaf reading, and interpret what the new year has in store.

Continued On Next Page

# COLUMBUS INTERFAITH



## Open Mind Zen - Group Meditation

Sunday, January 15 at 2:00 pm

Open Mind Zen Indiana (OMZI) is a community dedicated to self-discovery through the practice of Zen. Our practice modalities include traditional and contemporary teachings, various styles of meditation, koan study, dharma talks, workshops, retreats, and group discussions. As a lay sangha, we are committed to the flourishing of Zen as realized and expressed in everyday life.



## Red Tent Womens Circle: Celebrating Our Bodies

Friday, January 20 at 6:30 pm

January is that magical time of year when advertisements for gyms, diet programs, etc are in full swing. It's easy to fall for the idea that your body isn't "good enough", but we're not about that nonsense. Join us for an afternoon of loving your body and all the wonderful gifts it has to offer. Enjoy sweets with friends, relax with a professional massage, create beautiful music, and practice celebrating your body!



## Intro To Crystals Class

Friday, January 20 at 6:30 pm

This is a class for all rock lovers, from geology fans to spiritual seekers. Join Jessica Gibson for a fun class that explores the many ways to incorporate crystals in your spiritual journey.



## Open Mind Zen - Group Meditation

Sunday, January 29 at 2:00 pm

Open Mind Zen Indiana (OMZI) is a community dedicated to self-discovery through the practice of Zen. Our practice modalities include traditional and contemporary teachings, various styles of meditation, koan study, dharma talks, workshops, retreats, and group discussions. As a lay sangha, we are committed to the flourishing of Zen as realized and expressed in everyday life.





# FLASHBACK FOR FAMILIES

This past year, we have had so many amazing events for children and families thanks to our Children's Ministry Coordinator, Adrienne Summerlot and other wonderful volunteers. If you would like to receive reminders about upcoming events for families, you can join the [RUU's Facebook group](#) or send an email to [children@uucci.org](mailto:children@uucci.org) to join the family mailing list!



**WANT TO SEE  
YOUR WRITINGS  
OR EVENT INFO  
IN THE FEBRUARY  
NEWSLETTER?**



## **SPIRIT OF PLACE**

You've probably seen the phrase "Spirit of Place" a time or two in the last few months. During the next month while we're preparing for a special weekend with Scott Russell Sanders, we will also have opportunities to appreciate the land we live on (even in the Winter) and reflect on ways to connect with the spirit of the space we share. We invite you to share any reflections on this topic, or other writings you want to include. Please send your submissions to [admin@uucci.org](mailto:admin@uucci.org) by January 15th, 2023 to see them featured in the February issue of our newsletter. Here are some ideas for inspiration:

**EVENT INFO ● SEASONAL REFLECTION  
WINTER RECIPES ● HOLIDAY INFO  
POETRY OR MUSINGS ● ART TO SHARE  
PHOTOS FROM RECENT GATHERINGS  
SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**