

UUCCI NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2023 ISSUE

UUCCI.ORG

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POSTCARDS FROM THE MINISTER

Hello Friends!

After my trip with my mom through the northern rural and suburban areas of Milwaukee, I returned home to Indiana. My dad accompanied me as we spent time with my family in the here and now. Early the next week, we would begin a 3,000 mile eastern roadtrip to explore my paternal ancestry. The route was generally clear, but what we would find along the way both before us and within us would be hard to imagine.

My dad and I spent about 45 hours in the car together! Lots of great conversations about family, history, values, and the future. There were three sections of the trip: 1) Northern Ohio, 2) New England, and 3) West Virginia/Southern Ohio.

In each location we visited several cemeteries, some of which became our highlights. Our first visit was to the Celina/Lima area of Ohio, which was the location of my paternal grandmother's family of recent generations. We visited the towns of Celina, St. Mary's, and Spencerville and saw some Pierces and Kennedy's (not those Kennedys). I admired some of the architecture of Celina and the rural cemetery in Spencerville. My dad remembered fondly coming to visit his great uncle Francis Dawley on the family farm.

What became clear as the snow began to fall on our final three hours home was this. A more detailed accounting and reflection of this ancestral pilgrimage is in order. After all, what we found along the way was but one part of how we came to know ourselves and feel our connection to our family. I hope that as time and way opens, I will people to offer a more reflective interpretation of this transformative journey.

With Gratitude,
Rev. Nic Cable



SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday Mornings at 10 am

MAR 05 *Moments that Made Us*

With the Sunday Services Team

Things that happen in the sensitive time of our youth may appear insignificant, but they can have a lasting effect. Six Worship Associates will share memories from their young days and muse on how those memories have affected their lives.

MAR 12 *The Holy Days*

Guest Speaker Elizabeth Valencia-Gutierrez

UUCCI is thrilled to welcome our Sabbatical Preacher, Elizabeth Valencia-Gutierrez. This service is the fifth part to her Sermon series.

MAR 19 *A Living Faith*

With Adrienne Summerlot

In this service we will reflect on how Unitarian Universalism has adapted over the years to be a living faith. We will delve into the proposed changes in Article II which include purposes, values and covenant, inspirations, inclusion and freedom of belief. We hope to begin to imagine what it could look like to be accountable to one another for doing the work of living our shared values through the spiritual discipline of Love.

MAR 26 *Weaving Our Stories Together for the Future*

Guest Speakers Rev. Sarah Gettie McNeill

& Rev. Darrick Jackson

After a weekend of stories and play, we will imagine how the stories of this congregation can lead us into the future.



THE MORE THINGS CHANGE . . .

By Louise Hillery

It may seem like every service is different right now during Rev. Nic's absence. But rest assured, the guest speakers have all been carefully chosen and coached by Rev. Nic.

And one other thing is reliable and consistent: each speaker has the guidance and help of a trained Worship Associate as they plan their service.

Communication has been understandably difficult, but the Worship Associates have been persistent and faithful.

Our 6 worship associates serve a 3-year term, assisting at 8-9 services a year.

- Before each service, they consult with the speaker to learn what the speaker's message will be and how they can support it with their personal reflections.
- They make the sanctuary ready for the service, including fresh candles and glasses of water for the speakers.
- When there are guest speakers, the worship associate is the main question-answerer.

After the service, the on-duty and off-duty worship associates try to circulate among the congregation, to learn what in the service touched them, surprised, pleased or displeased them. At monthly meetings, these observations are shared and discussed in detail, for the purpose of making the next month's services just a little better.

Our present worship associates, in order of seniority, are Steve Jasper and Kevin Altevogt, Cynthia Scott and Chris Kevitt, and Skye Nicholson and Liz Nolan-Greven. Please talk to them if you have ideas about how to make our services more meaningful for you. And I hope you will thank them for the extra effort they are putting in these days.



Spring Has Sprung!

BY LIN MONTGOMERY
PAST UUCI PRESIDENT

March is here again. March 2023 marks a year three since the COVID-19 pandemic sent the fortunate among us inside to work from home in our jammies and socialize via Zoom while the less fortunate were forced to continue to work at great risk to their own health. It's been a long, hard pandemic, but I can't help but believe the end is in sight and the nationwide vaccine rollout is giving us hope that we may yet be able to have something resembling a normal summer. There is hope to be found, too, in the difference between March 2020 and March 2023. During the pandemic, we were fearful and confused, unsure of the safest way to conduct ourselves as events were canceled right and left. We continue to learn more and more about the virus. We know what to do to limit the risk. Large-scale events such as the Super Bowl, March Madness basketball tournaments and the Indy 500 can go ahead. I think there are plenty of reasons for hope in this March 2023, and even more interesting facts that make the third month the best month of the year.

In the Northern Hemisphere, the meteorological beginning of spring occurs on the first day of March. The adage that March comes like a lion and leaves like a lamb is actually betting material - you've got a 50/50 shot!

March 14 begins daylight saving time (withholding judgement on this one) More fun is that March 14 is PI Day; the annual occurrence of 3/14 the cause of many bad math jokes and of course, freshly baked pie.

March 15 is the Ides of March but unless you are a Julius in Rome, should not affect you.

March 17. Even if you aren't Irish and don't know much about St. Patrick's Day, you can still celebrate with a pint.

March 20 is when the sun shines on the equator for the Vernal Equinox, giving us a near 50-50 split of day and night.

No matter your reason to love March; have a great one. Make the sun shine for someone with a smile and always be kind.



UUCCI IS ABOUT CARING

By Cynthia Scott



The Care Team does more than help members through an illness by sending greeting cards, making telephone calls, or delivering meals. Those traditional gifts of time are wonderful and appreciated, but there is much more. I know this from personal experience as a recipient while my beloved Tom was dying and for the days following.

During the difficult six days he was home after discharge from the nursing facility, I was lucky to have the support of my UU friends. Sandy McCoy came to our home while I was trying to make Tom comfortable. She gave valuable physical assistance, professional advice, and moral support to me during the struggle. Jim and Lynette Farless made a welfare visit, which helped to ease feelings of futility and loneliness.

During the first few days after my loss, I received more than twenty sympathy cards from congregation members. The week after Tom's passing, Brittany Philips and her daughter Aurora took me out to lunch. The following weekend, Jim and Lynette took me to church for the two holiday services. And then drove me there again for Tom's memorial service four days later. I thank all thirty of you who were able to come to the December 29th service on such short notice and so soon after the holiday season. I was heartened by your kind and upbeat remarks about Tom.

Caring and kindness did not stop after that. In the second week of January, Judy Jasper took me to lunch at Blackerby's Hangar. The next Saturday, Jason Swanson came to the house to help me sort and identify tools in the garage. We were joined by Lori afterwards for lunch at a Mexican food café. Because of caring and encouraging words from many, I am beginning to participate in the organized social activities of UUCCI. You have all helped me as I transition to a new chapter in life. Thank you.

More Action, Less Organizing

By Louise Hillery

Representatives of Hot Meals, Environmental Action Team, Welcoming Congregation, Racial Justice Team, and Global Action Committee met in late January. Together, they are the Courageous Action Council. Louise Hillery convened the meeting in Rev. Nic's absence.

Each group reported decreasing numbers of people attending or participating. Overall, the sentiment of the group seemed to say it's hard to engender interest in organizing their groups these days. However, individuals from the congregation seem to show up in good numbers when there's a community effort or activity that aligns with our interests in various aspects of justice, rights, and needs.

There is more interest from members in participating in large community efforts rather than in attending meetings. And furthermore, members seem to be equally interested in all areas of need, not just their particular special group. Changes were discussed which would put more emphasis on inviting the whole congregation to show up for action, and become again a visible public presence in the community.

The Council will meet again on March 28 to consider this idea further, and work out details of how the Council could operate in the future. Please share your ideas with Patti Wade, Dick Boyce, Sondra Bolte, Kathleen Leason, and Cathy Caldie.

Global Action Team Update!

By Liz Nolan-Greven

The Global Action Team met on February 19 to give an update to the congregation and interested members about Kiva, the micro loan program that we participate in. We have had great success with Kiva and plan to do more loans for needy people who want to start small businesses in developing countries. We also were updated on the Kitale orphanage, which the congregation and many others have helped support for 15 years. We are pleased that we have been able to get sponsors for 11 high school students to go to boarding school for 4 years. This is a huge and important opportunity for these kids who have come out of extreme poverty and if it hadn't been for the orphanage, would have been living on the streets still. We are working to grow programming in collaboration with the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's work on Immigrant Justice and hope to have an informational program sometime in the spring. Stay tuned! If you are interested in Global Action, contact Cathy Caldie at ccaldie28@gmail.com



The Sound of Hearty Singing



I am thrilled to hear the sound of hearty singing as we stand to join in hymns these days. It's been a long road back from our pandemic silence.

During the time of Zoom services, it was not technically possible to sing together, so individual singers recorded hymns at home. On my Zoom screen I could see many of you singing at home, on mute, along with those 20 recordings that we used over and over. It was a touching sight.

Even after we returned, to live services, it was not advisable to sing together, for the risk of spreading Covid. So we still used our 20 recordings. Also the choir got together with videographer Jeff Jones to make 23 new hymn recordings, safely outdoors on our grounds. We had 43 hymns to use during many months of silence.

On these Sabbatical Sundays, we don't have Nic's strong voice to lead our singing. So various volunteer singers have been stepping up to lead, especially when it's a hymn that is less familiar. That means they have to take the time to learn the hymn, and find the courage to stand in front of the congregation and sing it for you, with you.

I hope everyone appreciates these volunteer song leaders, and will take time to tell them so. They add so much enthusiasm to our services. And the congregation's response of joining in whole-heartedly has made our services a joyful experience once again.

By Louise Hillery



Children & Youth

THE STORIES WE TELL AND THE NARRATIVES WE NURTURE

By Adrienne Summerlot

Storytelling is one of the most ancient of traditions. An interactive art of using words and actions to reveal the elements and images of the story while encouraging the listener's imagination. We pass our favorite stories on to our children and also use stories as a way to move and engage people to take action. We find resources to nurture our passions and allow us to harness knowledge that might shift us toward emerging experts on a topic.

One of the most powerful things we can do as congregations is to tell stories of who we are, where we came from, and invite others to join in as we imagine and dream of where we are going. We have the challenge of holding onto those stories with respect and also with care to allow other stories with new active characters and storylines to emerge and grow. We must ask ourselves: what do we want people to gain from sharing this story? AND are we making space for new tales to be told?

As a religious educator, parent and trusted adult (for many children) I have welcomed the role of helping children to own their own stories and to see themselves as being able to shape their own narrative. Let me share a story about my son and how this story changed relationships and why we hold it near and dear to us and will probably refer back to it several times in the future.



In 2014, my son was just 4 years old and a passionate lover of primates. We were card carrying members of the Indianapolis Zoo and spent about a year learning about the new Orangutan center that would be opening. Our library was a resources for learning all we could about them. The zoo mailed us literature about the Orangutans that would be calling this home- rescues from entertainment industry, improperly kept in homes, etc. During the time we waited, I was impressed by our preschooler's tenacity for acquiring and retaining knowledge about their habitats, threats, and conservation. His sisters were 8 and 10 years old and Girl Scouts and I was one of their troop leaders. My son loved Girl Scout cookies almost as much as he loved Orangutans, but we would soon learn where his line was. We learned about palm oil and deforestation and the threat it poses to the orangs. When we finally went to the center opening, he took everything in, and then, there it was- pictures of several products we see on supermarket shelves and his beloved girl scout cookies as representation of the devastating dependence on palm oil. He broke down and started crying. I held space for him, we talked tenderly about it. A conservationist sat with us and listened to his concerns at the center. We continued to talk about this for months, not just he and I, but our whole family. 6 months had gone by, it was about time to start preparing for Girl Scout cookie season and we were unresolved. His sisters surprised me, reflecting on the values they shared with their brother and instilled in them from us and being raised UU they asked, "Do we have to sell the cookies?" I replied, "absolutely not!" Then I realized, they weren't just talking about themselves but the whole troop. Next, they decided to ask their troops if they could invite Nate (he was almost 5 by this time) to share what he learned and they unanimously welcomed the opportunity.



After watching a power point presentation he and his sisters created, we spent the rest of the meeting researching and discussing. Both troops decided not to sell and petitioned the council to have their concerns heard at the next troop leader meeting. Our troops along with several others decided not to sell that year. Instead, they wrote letters and petitioned Girl Scouts and the two bakeries that supplied cookies to shift to sustainable practices. We dreamed up and executed alternative fundraising practices and carried that experience with us. Top cookie selling badges were replaced with badges for environmental justice and citizenship.

Reverend Nic reminds us often that we are operating within, among, and beyond. I hold this story closely and nurture it to live within my son and our whole family because the future will have times when they are doing something counter to the group mindset, when something might move them to action and they might be unsure of themselves. I need them to know that their voice is important, their ideas matter, and they can cause ripples of change.

Update: Girl Scouts are continuing to shift to sustainable practices, [you can read more here.](#)

LIGHTING THE HOMEFIRE

FORGOTTEN STORIES & ANCESTRAL MEMORIES

BY BRITTANY PHILLIPS

July of 2002 was hot enough to make the devil sigh, and hotter still if you were in the tiny attic of your Grandma's house in Lexington, Kentucky. Twenty years later, I remember every detail of that cozy little attic room, from the quilt on the bed to the polished wooden box detailing the legend of the dogwood blossom that sat on the nightstand. Some of you folks may know that legend yourself or heard a hair of it from your grandparents.

This isn't to say I have a good memory, but rather a testament to how much you can remember about a place when you're a squirrely twelve year old spending a whole week in an attic on your very best behavior with nothing to look at all day but a wooden box, a quilt, and a small shelf of about ten books.

You can bet I read every book on that shelf. Mind you, I wasn't stuck in that room. I could play outside or watch Golden Girls, but something primal - almost spiritual - had gotten a hook in me and at that young age, I didn't have the tools to identify what it was. There was something about the careful stitching on the handmade quilt, the legends and lore told around the dinner table, and most of all, a collection of stories and lore that stirred something in my mind like a memory that wasn't mine to remember.

These were ancestral memories.

I suppose I should have started this story with the fact that I was born and raised in Indiana, which is a good deal different than Kentucky. Now, it may not seem like a big difference to you, but ask anyone in Indiana, and they'll tell you it is. With that said, I had never been in a log cabin, churned butter, nor learned the necessary words to keep spirits out your house. I had no use for this information, but for some reason, as I sat and read each of the Foxfire books in that attic, something clung to my soul. Each page documented how life in rural Appalachia had changed over time.

Stories of trapping in the winter, folk remedies for curing colic, black-and-white photos of hill folks, and hand-drawn instructions for building an entire cabin connected with not just my young mind, but deep within my spirit in an almost sacred way. For the first time in my life, I felt a strong connection and kinship with the unknown relatives that came before me, long before our family's exodus to Indiana.



Many years later, I returned to Kentucky to visit Somerset - well, pert near Somerset out in the hills where there weren't really road names, but rather wooden signs with family names to show who lives on which hill. I wasn't familiar with any of the families or their hills, but I was treated like any of the other kids running around those parts. Someone always asked if I had eaten, hollered at me if it was needed, and made sure that I came back from the woods safely each evening before sunset. These were some of the most kind and loving folks I had ever met in my life. Even the outhouse wasn't that bad, so long as you kicked it a few times to scare the snakes out first. Despite everything being far outside my comfort zone, something about the hills and hollers, picnics in the cemetery, and shooting mistletoe out of a tree with a shotgun just felt as comfortable and familiar as coming home.

During my time in those hills, I could feel a familiar stirring that I couldn't put my finger on. At the time, I had just started exploring my spiritual path and I chalked it up to feeling connected to the wild of the woods that surrounded us. I would have been happy to spend the trip out of the way and reading my field guides and books on folk remedies but I was delighted to find out that many of the people that I was staying with were happy to share a wealth of knowledge on that very topic!

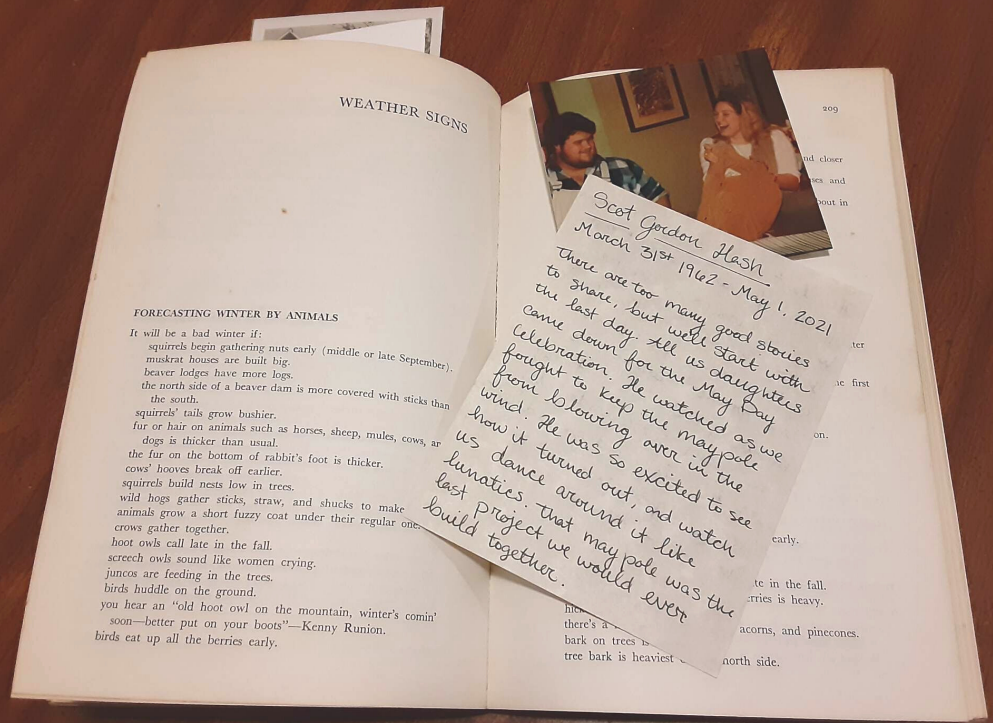
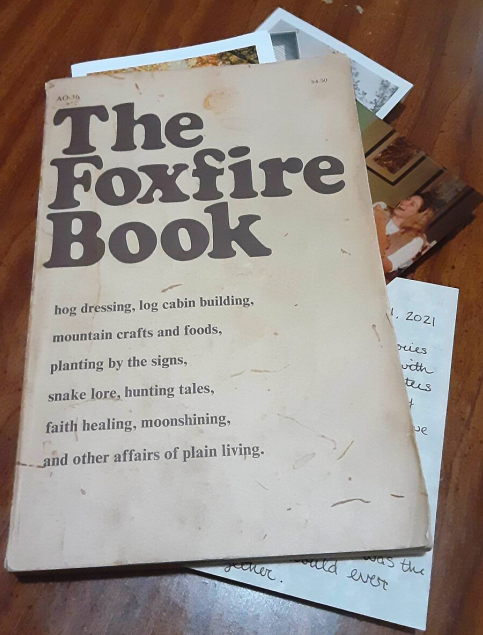
For the folks that settled in Appalachia, the mountains that isolated them from the world were either a protective hand or a closed fist, all depending on how well they were able to commune with the land and understand its ways.

It makes a heap of sense that these families knew the ways of the land better than anyone. Aunt Arellys had a whole bookshelf on medicinal herbs and folk remedies. Everyone I spoke to had either a good story or a piece of wisdom to share. And when I say everyone, that was just a handful of folks until Decoration Day came around.

Decoration Day is when everyone from far and wide comes from all over the holler and makes the climb up the hill to the cemetery. They bring flowers, ribbons, photos, and such to decorate the plots of loved ones, and enough food to feed a small army. However, what really caught my heart was that this wasn't a time of mourning. It was as if the whole community was having a pitch-in and wanted to make sure those that had passed on didn't miss out on any of the potato salad. Folks spoke of loved ones as if they were still with us, just on the other end of the table by the cooler. This is how they kept their loved ones' stories alive.

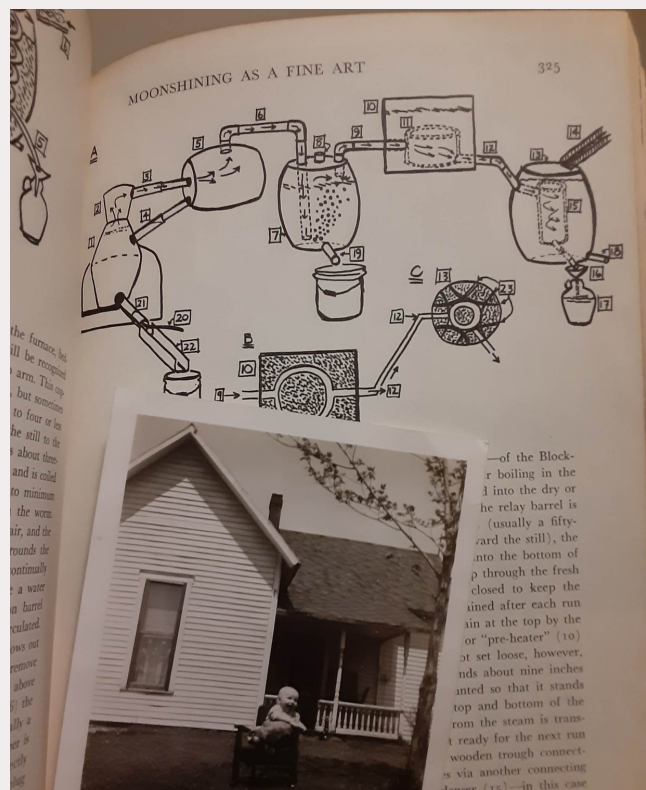
This custom of talking freely, joyously, and often about loved ones changed that way that I approached loss and grieving. One of the greatest gifts that we can offer to a friend that has experienced a loss is to sit with them and listen. Bring them food and listen. Just be present with them and listen.

If you're feeling formal, set out a plate of their loved ones' favorite meal and talk about them in the present tense. It may feel strange at first, but while their stories are shared, they are still here with us in our hearts and memories. Even if they can't taste your biscuits in person, it's nice to be included, and it's good manners to share.



As fate would have it, the family that adopted me also has grandparents from Kentucky. Though I wasn't blood, I always feel like proper kin while hearing family stories, sharing recipes, and learning remedies from the grown folks. Each member of the family carries a wealth of knowledge of how to work with the land (Mama Delia), or make the best apple pie moonshine you'll ever taste in your life (credit to my sister Rainan).

One of my greatest regrets in life is that I never had the forethought to write down the stories, recipes, outdoor skills, and jokes that my Dad shared with me before he passed. We all settle into life and assume that things will keep on keeping on, until they don't. Many families have a big family Bible to record important dates, memories, and stories in. Unfortunately, with all three of us sisters being Pagan, we don't have such a Bible handy for this purpose. As it happens, my Dad had a set of the Fox Fire Books (remember them?), and I have started the project of adding stories, memories, and photos of our family to these books so that they can be passed down to my daughter and the next generation of children in the family. This also gives me the opportunity to sit down with my grandparents and hear tales of their childhoods, and preserve their memories, too.



Preserving family stories doesn't need to begin and end with those who are already passed. For me, it has become an act of service to my loved ones, their stories, and honoring their legacy in the present while they are here.

UUCCI PROGRAMS

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 March. Many of these events repeat each month, so you can always catch the next one if you're snowed in this time around!



Circle of Song

Thursday, March 2 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, March 3 at 10:30 am

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

Raising Unitarian Universalists (RUUs) & Toy/Puzzle Swap

Sunday, March 5 at 11:30 am

We will meet in the library for conversation and fellowship. This month we are swapping toys and puzzles for anyone who wants to rehome things your kids have outgrown.

Our Whole Lives (OWL)

Sunday, March 5 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

Chalice Circle

Wednesday, March 8 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.

UUCCI PROGRAMS (CONTINUED)

Racial Justice Team Meeting

Thursday, March 9 at 6:30 pm

Monthly meeting of the UUCCI Racial Justice Team. The Racial Justice Team seeks to educate and energize the congregation around racial justice issues. We are an active group of dedicated people and would love to have a few more team members. Contact Kathleen Leason, kmleason@gmail.com, if you're interested. We are meeting via Zoom on 2nd Thursdays of the month, 6:30-8:00pm.

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us>

Second Sunday Forum

Sunday, March 12 at 11:30 am

Please join us for more exploration and conversation as we delve into topics connected to recent sermons and the upcoming sabbatical workshops. Each Forum will be at 11:15am in the Elsie Weekly Room. Look for more detailed descriptions for each Forum in the Friday Reminder leading up to it.

Crone Wisdom Circle

Sunday, March 12 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 or Nancy nlolson572@gmail.com.

Spiritual Living Circle

Monday, March 13 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.

Pastoral Care Team Meeting

Wednesday, March 15 at 2:00 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.

Board Meeting

Thursday, March 16 at 6:30 pm

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

Circle of Song

Thursday, March 16 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.

UUCCI PROGRAMS (CONTINUED)

Spring Equinox

Saturday, March 18 at 3 pm

Celebrate the arrival of Spring with a variety of activities for all ages. After crafts, snacks, and games, the egg hunts begin! That's right, there will be multiple egg hunts: the first for kids, then teens, then the adults! Bring your favorite basket, a side dish to share, and a donation for the Bartholomew County Humane Society.

Article II Conversation

Sunday, March 19 at 11:30 am

Join us for a conversation about the proposed changes for Article II. We hope to create understanding around the process- what has happened and what is coming up. We will meet in the Sanctuary at 11:30 am, we will also have an opportunity to Livestream via Zoom. Two years ago, the UUA Board appointed a commission of Unitarian Universalists to integrate various grassroots conversations about changes to the Principles and lead a discernment process for the whole Association to review Article II of our Bylaws. From presentations and input at General Assembly to more than 10,000 survey responses, to over 4,600 participants in their feedback sessions, the Article II Study Commission listened and shaped an Article II that has the potential to lead us farther along the path of living our aspirations faithfully within and beyond our UU community. We are so grateful for all that UUs do to move our living tradition forward.

We encourage you to watch this video to learn more about the process and draft: <https://bit.ly/3X41IGN>
And the current proposal of Article II can be found here.

Building & Grounds Team Meeting

Wednesday, March 22 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, Jon Fischer at farmbrewer@gmail.com, or Michael Greven at mgecosourceinc@gmail.com

Crone Wisdom Circle via Zoom

Thursday, March 23 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://us02web.zoom.us/j/9866716184>
Meeting ID: 986 671 6184

Identity Over Time:

An Evening of Improv

Friday, March 24 at 7 - 9 pm

Whether gradual or sudden, desired or unwanted, our identities and relationships to them change over time. We might learn to love a part of ourselves we once felt shame for or shed an old part of ourselves and become something new. What relationships have you had with your identities over time? Members of the Chicago Playback Theatre Ensemble will be performing.

UUCCI PROGRAMS (CONTINUED)

Sharing Our Stories

Saturday, March 25, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m

This mini retreat will be full of interactive and entertaining workshops.

Children's programming (ages 4 and up) will be fun-filled story exploration! charades, puppets, collaborative storytelling, creating story stones and more! RSVPs are encouraged and appreciated for catering and planning of weekend events. Childcare and children's programming will only be provided if RSVPs are received by March 19.

THE POWER OF STORIES



**Rev. Sarah
Gettie McNeil**



**Rev. Darrick
Jackson**

March 24 - 26, 2023

At Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbus, IN

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.



Open Mind Zen - Group Meditation

Sunday, March 5 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.



Full Moon Celebration: Worm Moon

Friday, March 10 at 6:30 pm

On this special day, we will be talking about the Earth waking up for the Spring Equinox, talking about the Worm Moon, and learning about what the Earth will be doing during the Spring. Afterwards, we will go exploring in the woods to see what bugs we can find, build bug hotels, and get a little muddy, so don't dress your kids in fancy pants this day. For our story circle, we will be telling the story "Daisy and the Dancing Worms" while dancing and drumming together, so be sure to bring a toy bucket to drum on (and we will have some spares to borrow)! Download your [Worm Moon Activity Booklet](#) for the family!



Columbus Interfaith Meeting

Wednesday, March 8 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.



Red Tent Womens Circle: Becoming Your Own Best Friend

Friday, March 17 at 6:30 pm

This month, we will explore how we can practice compassion for ourselves. Join us for love and support, great food, and some fun activities to build a loving relationship with yourself.



Open Mind Zen - Group Meditation

Sunday, March 19 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.



SABBATICAL NEWS

From Cate Hyatt

Can you believe that we will soon be attending our second of three sabbatical weekends? We hope you'll make your RSVP's now for March 24-26 where we further delve into our roots, this time through the art of storytelling.

A cornerstone of our sabbatical time has been planned so that we can learn from the stories of others in our lives and at UUCCI. We'll also learn to tell our own stories. Rev Sarah Gettie and Rev. Darrick Jackson will kick off Friday evening. They will be joined by a touring ensemble, The Playback Theatre Troupe, for An Evening of Improv.

Saturday's workshop will focus on UUCCI stories, as we explore our roots and uncover our stories, individually and collectively. "We will deal with our congregation's past ups and downs, the triumphs and traumas that we have lived through. If you're a relative newcomer, it's like being born into a family that existed before you, and is the result of everything they have experienced. This is an opportunity to get your bearings on the emotional landscape you have entered." We do this in order to create a more dynamic and vital future for our congregation by deepening our understanding of our past relationships with ministers. By doing so, we might learn from these experiences and enrich our connections with Rev. Nic.

[Rev. Sarah Gettie McNeill](#) and [Rev. Darrick Jackson](#) will close the weekend by leading our Sunday service. Click their names to read their bios!

Won't you join us Friday and/or Saturday for these fun, inspiration and thought-provoking activities!

HOW TO SAVE YOUR SEAT

Call the UUCCI office and RSVP by phone at (812) 342-6230

Send an email to Brittany at admin@uucci.org

Find links for all special weekends in the Program Guide (shared in the Friday Reminders and on our website)

Link for The Reverands weekend in Friday reminders beginning March 3rd

Link for The Reverands weekend in the Mach Newsletter (which will be on our website and in the Friday Reminder on March 3)

Link in the Eblasts sent out at the beginning of each month

QR codes on table signs in the fellowship hall beginning February 1st





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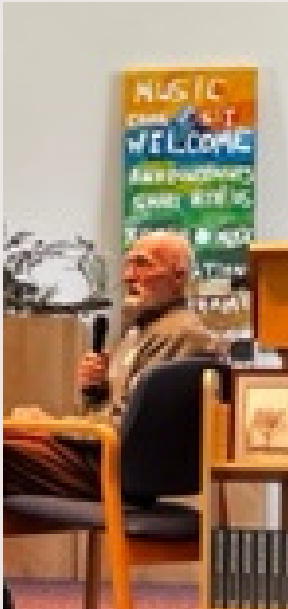


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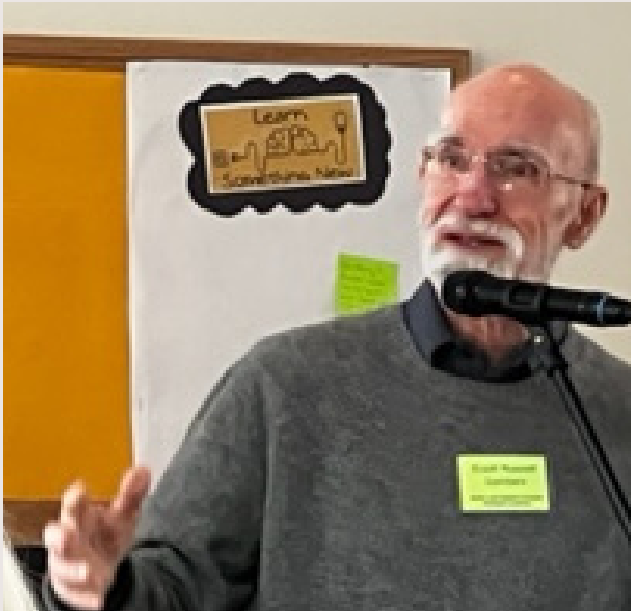
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YOU ARE

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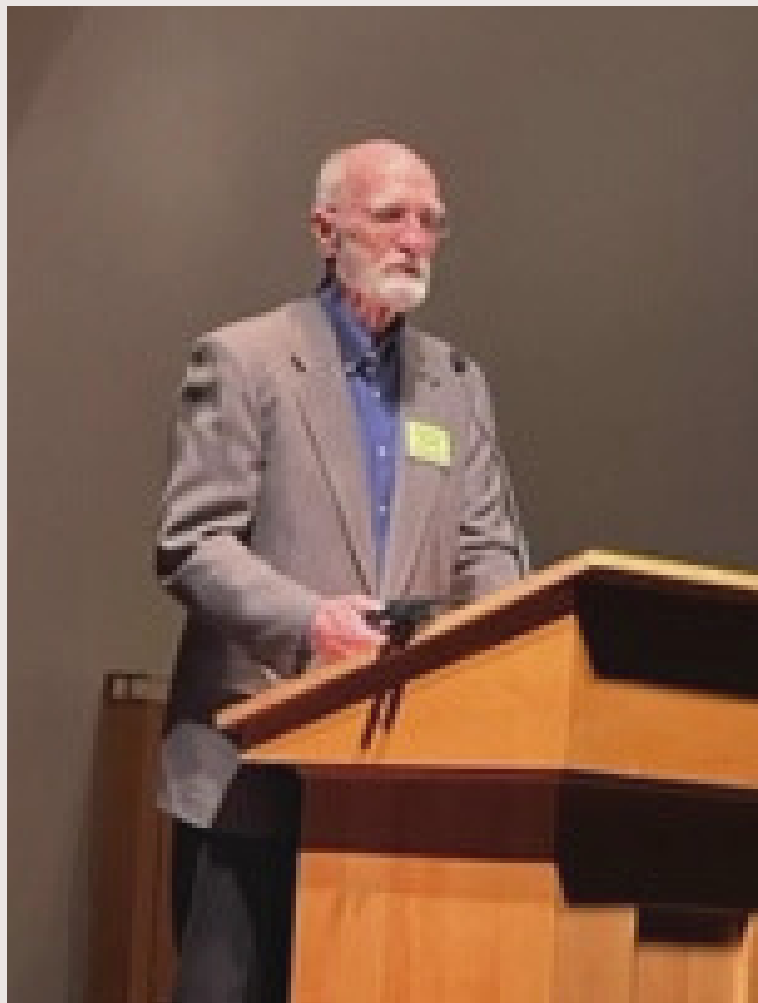
FEBRUARY
2023





SCOTT RUSSELL SANDERS

Thank you to everyone who joined us this past week for a very memorable and meaningful weekend. Also, thank you to Scott Russell Sanders for helping us to celebrate our roots and inspire our journey ahead as a congregation.



SABBATICAL SPOTLIGHT

This month, we welcome two wonderful guest ministers and The Playback Theatre Troupe for an unforgettable weekend of fun, reflection, and spiritual growth!

Rev. Sarah Gettie McNeill

Professional Development Programs Manager at the UUA

Sarah Gettie serves as the Professional Development Programs Manager at the UUA, supporting our Religious Education Credentialing and Music Leadership Certification Programs, as well as managing the Renaissance Program. In past ministries, she has served as a religious educator for a number of congregations, including All Souls Indy in Indianapolis, IN; Accotink UU Church in Burke, VA; and Westminster Unitarian Church in East Greenwich, RI. Prior to her time in congregational religious education, Sarah Gettie served as the Team Leader Chaplain at Methodist Hospital in Omaha, NE, where she was an active member of the Palliative Care Team and Ethics Committee, often leading clinical staff trainings. Sarah Gettie completed her MDiv from Meadville Lombard Theological School and afterward, completed five units of Clinical Pastoral Education.

Sarah Gettie finds spiritual nourishment in hiking; rolling around in leaf piles with her two children; and finds peace in mindfulness meditation. She resides in Bloomington, Indiana with her kiddos, her husband, and their houseful of pups, cats, and rats.





Rev. Darrick Jackson

DIRECTOR OF MINISTRIES FOR
LIFELONG LEARNING OF UU
MINISTERS ASSOCIATION

The Rev. Darrick Jackson (he/him) is the Director of Ministries for Lifelong Learning of the UU Ministers Association and an Affiliated Community Minister with the Second Unitarian Church of Chicago. He is one of the authors in the book "Centering: Navigating Race, Authenticity and Power in Ministry." Rev. Darrick is active in DRUUMM (the UU ministry for people of color) and is the treasurer for Healing Moments (a ministry for caregivers of people with Alzheimer's). He is also a founding member of the Chicago Playback Theatre Ensemble and is an avid knitter. In addition, he is pursuing his D.Min in Theology and the Arts at the United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. Rev. Darrick and his husband, Dr. James Olson, live with their two cats, Merlin and Morgana.

THE POWER OF STORIES



CLICK HERE TO RSVP!

Mar 24 @ 7-9 pm	Identity Over Time: An Evening of Improv
Mar 25 @ 9a - 3p	Sharing Our Stories
Mar 26 @ 10a - 2p	Weaving Our Stories Together for the Future

Save Your Seat!

RSVP by calling 812-342-6230, sending an email to Brittany at admin@uucci.org or register online at bit.ly/SRS-RSVP

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



CELEBRATING COMMUNITY

Spring is just around the corner, and the Earth is waking up around us. This is a great time to enjoy stirrings of inspirations. We would love to share your art! This newsletter is a place to share the voices and reflections of our congregation, as well as exciting news. We invite you to share any reflections, poetry, or writings you want to include. Please send your submissions to admin@uucci.org by March 15th, 2023 to see them featured in the April issue of our newsletter. Here are some ideas for inspiration:

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