

J U N E 2 0 2 3 I S S U E

U U C C I N E W S L E T T E R

E M B R A C I N G T H E S L O W D A Y S

FAREWELL TO
LORI SWANSON

**INTERFAITH
PITCH-IN &
CAMP OUT**

*Make A
Joyful Noise*
By Louise Hillery

PREVIEW:
SHARING OUR STORIES



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SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday Mornings at 10 am

JUNE 4 *"Transformation Sunday"*

With Rev Nic Cable & Adrienne Summerlot

All are invited to join us for a special service: "Transformation Sunday", where we reflect on How we changed in the past year, and how the world changed.

JUNE 11 *"Flower Communion"*

With Rev. Nic Cable & Liz Nolan-Greven

Join us in celebrating the 100 year anniversary of the Flower Ceremony! The Flower Ceremony, sometimes referred to as Flower Communion or Flower Festival, is an annual ritual that celebrates beauty, human uniqueness, diversity, and community. Originally created in 1923 by Unitarian minister Norbert Čapek of Prague, Czechoslovakia, the Flower Ceremony was introduced to the United States by Rev. Mája Čapek, Norbert's widow. [This piece on WorshipWeb](#), by the Revs. Teresa and David Schwartz, tells that story.

In this ceremony, everyone in the congregation brings a flower. Each person places a flower on the altar or in a shared vase. The congregation and minister bless the flowers, and they're redistributed. Each person brings home a different flower than the one they brought.

JUNE 18 *"Pet Blessing Sunday"*

With Rev. Nic Cable & Steve Jasper

Bring your pets, and meet some of the beloved members of our families at this years Pet Blessing!

"Make a Joyful Noise:

JUNE 25 *an Old-Fashioned Hymn Sing"*

With Liz Nolan-Greven & Led By All Present

Just one year away from the long Covid silence, we celebrate the role of singing in our religious life with an all-request hymn sing. As many hymns as we have time for, and you get to choose your favorites.

LETTER FROM THE MINISTER

DEAR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF UUCCI,

Throughout May I have spent time nesting once more into community with all of you. I have enjoyed time catching up whether over coffee, lunch, a walk, or at UUCCI. Hearing your stories of the sabbatical and learning about new things going on in your lives, I am thankful again and again to be able to walk along side you on this journey.

For this first newsletter since we have returned to one another after our respective sabbatical journeys, I wanted to write about the power of our stories. Our stories, each of your stories, contain truth and meaning, they hold importance, and they are worthy of sharing in community. Sometimes, we take for granted the meaningfulness that is our very existence. We look for truth beyond ourselves, authority beyond ourselves, and as a result we neglect noticing the beauty of our own journeys. From the mundane to the extraordinary, your life journey and your moral and ethical pursuits hold wisdom that others would benefit from hearing. When we share our stories, we can find greater connection, meaning, and direction for our lives.

This is why I have been thinking a lot over the past few months while on sabbatical about not whether we should share our stories in community, but “how” we can do so in a way that is accessible and transformational for those sharing the stories and those receiving them.

Long before I came to serve as minister of UUCCI, a tradition existed to occasionally have members of the congregation share their “Spiritual Journey”. Essentially, this was an opportunity to hear about the spiritual and ethical, human journey we have been undertaking both at UUCCI and prior to coming to this community. I know that these services hold a lot of meaning for you, just as the reflections done by congregants each Sunday has been impactful. And I have wondered how to best support this sharing of stories. In July 2018, we began to devote an entire month to Sharing Our Stories and we have done so every July since. This will be the sixth year of our Spiritual Journey series, yet the journey itself has witnessed major changes within our community. Most notably, the pandemic and sabbatical have really shifted how we have been able to connect and how to effectively use technology to enhance our sharing. For example, July of 2018 and 2019 looked a lot different than 2020-2022 due to the technology and mediums in which we were able to gather and present our stories during the pandemic.

In 2023, now certainly beyond the pandemic, I want to explore a third way of honoring this important tradition in our congregational life. This will honor both the intimacy of live services and the enhancement and perpetuity that technology can offer through pre-recorded elements. This is what I envision:

1. Sharing Our Stories or some language very similar will be the new framework for the services in July. Spiritual Journeys elicits both an overemphasis on the spirituality of our lives and the linear or autobiographical nature of our journeys. By reframing to Sharing Our Stories, we can better emphasize that we all have wisdom and stories worth sharing in community. This may result in focusing on a particular aspect of one's life, or chapter in life, or a central theme one notices reoccurring throughout their life. Certainly, the services can still take on a spiritual, autobiographical nature, but the diversity of approaches likely creates more clarity of the central importance of telling our stories in community.
2. Live and Pre-Recorded Elements will be utilized to create the best of both worlds of direct human experience on Sunday morning and the beauty technology can bring to our congregational life. The service will still be truncated likely consisting of 1) a live Welcome, Opening Words, and Chalice Lighting; 2) transitioning to pre-recorded elements, Opening Music w/ Pictures of the storytellers life, Reading(s), Sharing Our Stories, Closing Music; and finally, 3) some type of interactive ending, such as closing words, a facilitated Q/A, or a group conversation.
3. Fellowship Hall will be the location for these services, gathering folks around tables to experience the "service" with a more coffee house environment. Projection on the west wall, like what was done for Ann Herron's Celebration of Life will create a more intimate, rather than cavernous, experience for the pre-recorded elements of the service. This will also create a different, more dynamic energy for the July series that I believe will foster deeper connection in our community.

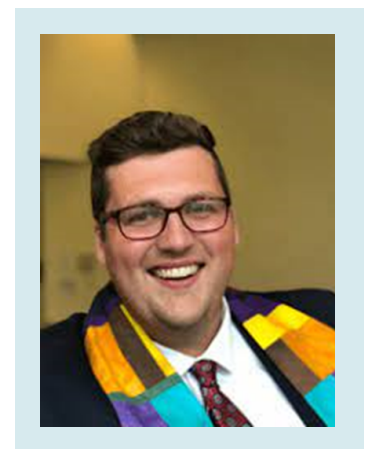
Of course all of this is experimentation and I hope you will help as we lean in to our attempt to lift up and share our stories with greater intention. We all have stories worth sharing! With your help, our tradition of doing so will meet the new era of community and possibility before us. Take a sneak peek look at whose stories are coming this fall!

July 2 Lori Swanson
July 9 Brittany Phillips
July 16 Walt and Joan Able
July 23 Louise Hillery
July 30 Mary Lu Orr

I hope to see you this summer and look forward to hearing your stories, as well!



REV. NIC CABLE
UUCCI Minister



SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD

Hello Friends!

At May's Board meeting, we welcomed Rev. Nic back from his sabbatical. We celebrated with snacks that touched on his journey in the first four months of the year, including Wisconsin cheese curds and jerky along with non-alcoholic German beer (who knew?). And we enjoyed his favorite cookie, peanut butter!

The Board also honored Lori Swanson, our Board Vice President, who is moving to the Upper Peninsula, Michigan, in early June, joining Jason who is already there. We are, of course, very happy for her new life adventures, but sad that she can no longer be with us. We wish her all the best that life can offer!

The Board's work over the next few months will be to focus on filling Lori's vacancy as well as looking ahead to filling the slate for 2024. Likewise, we've begun discussing approaches to gaining stakeholder feedback on the 2024 budget building process. Look to hear more about that over the summer.

Members and Friends, if you haven't yet completed the annual congregational survey, please do so as soon as you can. Look for an Ends Committee member to help you after the service.

Enjoy the summer!

Linda Iwamuro
Board President

Farewell from

Lori Swanson



Lori Swanson is a beloved friend who has volunteered her time and energy for countless events and projects at UUCI. She also served as our Vice President. We offer our blessings as she goes forth on her journey!

When Jason and I moved to Columbus nearly 9 years ago, I didn't know how I'd fit in. It was so different from the suburbs of Detroit where I had spent my life. My first thought was: how would I find people I could call my tribe?

Fortunately, I found UUCI on the internet. I went to a service, stayed for coffee hour, and began connecting with others. Serving on teams such as: Hot Meals, Sunday Services, and the Board of Trustees have been the most impactful volunteer opportunities for me. I've also deepened my connections through chalice circle, lifespan learning, the holiday market, childcare ministry, geo cluster get-togethers and more.

It is with a mix of emotions that I leave Indiana. There is excitement for Jason's and my adventure, and sadness to be leaving all of my found friends, my wonderful massage clients, and this treasured and supportive group called UUCI.

At trail heads I've seen the message posted, "Take only memories, leave only footprints." I will absolutely take heartfelt memories of each person who has touched my life. I hope you remember my footprints as those of friendship, kindness, and generosity.

With peace and gratitude,
Lori Swanson



MAKE A *Joyful* NOISE!

by Louise Hillery, Acting Music Director

There is an old custom in some Protestant churches of devoting a whole service now and then to the singing of hymns. If music touches your soul, then a whole hour of singing and hearing your favorite tunes can be especially touching.

On Sunday, June 25, we will reproduce this old custom. First, we will have the normal elements that make you feel like you've been to a real service: Chalice Lighting (with our beautiful new chalice), Wonder Box, Joys and Sorrows, and of course the Offering. And then Liz Nolan-Greven will take your requests for hymns to sing. We will sing as many hymns as we can, until it's time to extinguish the chalice.

If you've ever grumbled about the choice of hymns (too high, too slow, too fast, too church-y, unfamiliar, too familiar, too long, too short, ideas you don't agree with), this will be your chance to request your favorite hymn from our two hymnals.

Special note to anyone whose spouse or (heaven forbid!) music teacher ever told you that you can't sing. That doesn't apply to hymn singing! Everyone should sing hymns, in whatever way you want to as long as it's spirited. This will be an all-ages service, so let your kids see how much fun they and you can have with singing.

Then, while we're in an old-fashioned mood, we will gather indoors or outdoors, according to the weather, for a summer picnic. Watch your Friday Reminder for details.



THE BLESSING OF BOREDOM

By Brittany Phillips

Most parents dread the inevitable phrase that echos through many homes during the Summer months, "*I'm bored...*" Rather than replying with "Well, I guess we have time to clean," I have started treating this as an invitation for connection. There are countless things that can be done (or *need* to be done), but when our souls turn restless, I've found that it's often not because we have too much time on our hands. Rather, it is because we are yearning for something that nourishes our spirit.

Dear friends, I invite you to find the blessings hidden within the boredom this Summer. Will you pass the time sharing stories with friends around a fire? Perhaps you'll share a meal with a new neighbor or old friend. Can you pass on a skill to a younger person, or learn a thing or two from an elder in your life? Time will pass, as it always does, but the time spent with others is seldom boring. Who will you share your time with this Summer? Who will you bless with your presence?



UUCCI PROGRAMS

JUNE 2023

Annual Yard Sale

Friday, June 2 from 8 am - 4 pm

Bring a friend, and spend an hour or two shopping for new treasures! There will be a wide variety of items to choose from. All funds from this yard sale support UUCCI and our programs, so you're treating yourself for a good cause.

Annual Yard Sale

Saturday, June 3 from 8 am - 4 pm

This is the last day of the sale, and we will need at least 4 volunteers to help clean up afterwards. If you would like to help us clean up afterwards, [click here](#).

Spiritual Living Circle

Monday, June 5 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.

Racial Justice Team Meeting

Thursday, June 8 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>

Crone Circle

Sunday, June 11 at 11:30 am

We welcome all women over 50 years old. Questions? Contact Lori - loriswanson.cmt@gmail.com or Nancy - nlolson52@gmail.com.

Interfaith Peace Camp

**Monday, June 12 - Friday, June 16
From 9 am -4 pm**

We are thrilled to bring back Peace Camp for June 12th-16th, 2023.

Camp will take place from 9 am-4 pm indoors and outdoors at UUCCI 7850 E. Goeller Rd, Columbus, IN 47202.

Registration for this event is closed. Please contact Adrienne at children@uucci.org with any questions.

Board Meeting

Thursday, June 15 at 6:30 pm

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

Interfaith Pitch-In & Camp Out

**Friday, June 16 - Saturday, June 17
Begins Friday 16th at 5 pm**

All are welcome to join us for an overnight camp out and pitch-in. We will have s'mores, outdoor games, singing, and more fun activities. All children must have a parent or guardian present.

Building & Grounds Team Meeting

Wednesday, June 28 at 5 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

COLUMBUS INTERFAITH

EVENTS AT UUCCI INTERFAITH CAMPUS

Full Moon Celebration

Sunday, June 4 at 5 pm

Tree of Knowledge Indiana

Join us for a night of mischief, non-alcoholic midnight margaritas, and games followed by dinner and a movie. We will also lead a full moon ritual for those who wish to join. Please bring a side dish to share, tarot cards if you want to swap readings, and dress in your most *eccentric* clothes! For questions, please contact Brittany Phillips at admin@gmail.com

Red Tent Women's Circle

Saturday, June 10 at 6:30 pm

Tree of Knowledge Indiana

Each month, we gather to heal and celebrate each other. This month will be hosted by Brittany Phillips! Every woman is divine and sacred, and we will be exploring our own inner Goddess this month. You may wish to bring a side dish to share and something comfortable to wear. We will be creating an altar to honor ourselves, so please bring an item that represents your spirit to add to this shrine of self-love.

All women are welcome! You may wish to bring a side dish to share and something comfortable to wear. If you have questions, please reach out to admin@uucci.org. For questions, please contact Brittany Phillips at admin@gmail.com

Group Meditation

Sunday, June 11 & 25 at 2 pm

Open Mind Zen Indiana

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. Please contact Ann Beattie if you have questions at anndbeattie@gmail.com

Interfaith Pitch-In & Camp Out

Friday, June 16 - Saturday, June 17

Begins Friday 16th at 5 pm

All are welcome to join us for an overnight camp out and pitch-in. We will have s'mores, outdoor games, singing, and more fun activities. All children must have a parent or guardian present.

Thread Spinning Class

Friday, June 23 at 5 pm

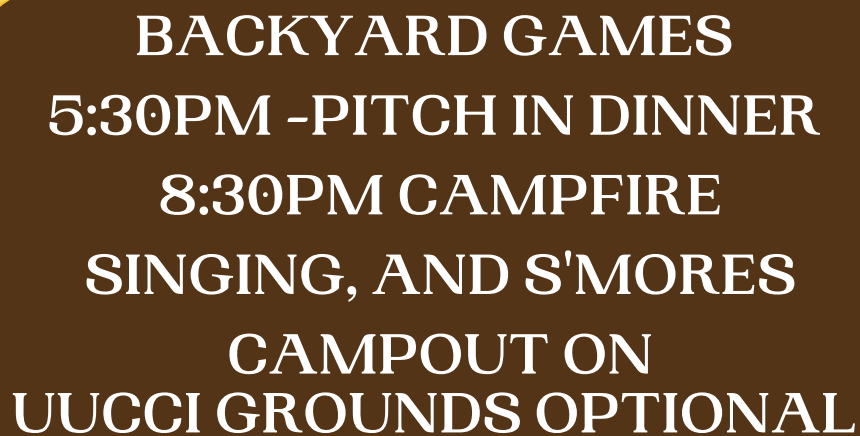
Tree of Knowledge Indiana

All are welcome! Practice a fun new skill and learn about the spiritual significance of thread in human history. Guests will be led by Conner McKay in creating their own drop spindles and spinning wool into thread.



INTERFAITH PITCH IN AND CAMP OUT

**FRIDAY JUNE 16TH
ALL AGES WELCOME!**



BACKYARD GAMES
5:30PM - PITCH IN DINNER
8:30PM CAMPFIRE
SINGING, AND S'MORES
CAMPOUT ON
UCCI GROUNDS OPTIONAL



QUESTIONS?
CONTACT ADRIENNE
CHILDREN@UCCI.ORG



UUCCI CLASSIFIEDS

FREE-CYCLE

FREE COLD LAMINATOR

We have a large cold laminator and plastic sheets that go with it. If someone would like to give this a good home, please stop by the office and pick it up! Brittany will help you carry it.

COMMUNITY

INTERFAITH CAMPOUT

Can you sing or play guitar? Are you an expert marshmallow roaster? Are you looking to have a good time with friends? If so, we would love to see you at the camp out (even if you don't stay the night)!

PLANNING AN EVENT?

Spring is here, and there are a LOT of events happening. Spring and Summer are especially busy seasons for rentals. We want to ensure that the members of our congregation are able to have their choice of dates, times, and locations for their meetings and events before we start receiving the seasonal rental requests. If you are planning an event at UUCCI, please contact our admin to add your event to the online [Breeze calendar](#). Send an email with event details to Brittany at admin@uucci.org or fill out this [Calendar Request Form](#)

UUCCI YARD SALE

Thank you to all the amazing people that have volunteered to help with this year's annual yard sale! Special thanks to Donna Stanley for organizing this fundraiser for UUCCI!

HELP WANTED

SHARE YOUR STORY

In our July newsletter, we will be sharing stories from members of our congregation. Please send in any recipes, tall tales, anecdotes or reflections that you would like to share. No rules, no theme, no worries! Now's your chance to get creative.

VOLUNTEERS FOR SUNDAY MORNINGS

Volunteers for Sunday morning greeting and making coffee are being recruited for the month of May. Volunteers for making coffee are needed on April 16, 23 and 30. If you can help, reach out to Marcia Walker at mwalker@epowerc.net or 812-521-1825. There is also a sign up sheet and information posted on one of the bulletin boards in the fellowship hall.

VOLUNTEER TO PLAY!

If you are curious about Peace Camp and would like to lend a hand, contact Adrienne at children@uucci.org to learn how you can get in on the fun!

PUBLIC NOTICE

LOST & FOUND

Have you seen our new Lost & Found box? It's above the coat racks across from the nametag shelves by the sanctuary. When this box gets full, we will donate the contents to San Souci, so be sure to check to see if it is housing any missing sunglasses, water bottles, or tupperware of yours.

SEE YOUR CLASSIFIED HERE NEXT MONTH!

This is an opportunity to make connections within the UUCCI community. Are you looking for a dog walker? Connect with the friend looking for a work-out buddy! Do you have a box of scrap fabric to get rid of? Reach out to the sewing club. Want to lend a hand? Our "Help Wanted" section has some suggestions. Send your classified listing info to admin@uucci.org