

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbus, IN

UUCCI NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2025 ISSUE



YOUTH GROUP

PREPARE FOR A VARIETY
OF FUN EVENTS FOR OUR
YOUTHS AND YOUNG AT
HEART!

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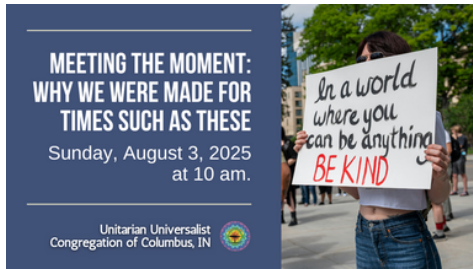
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SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday Mornings at 10 am



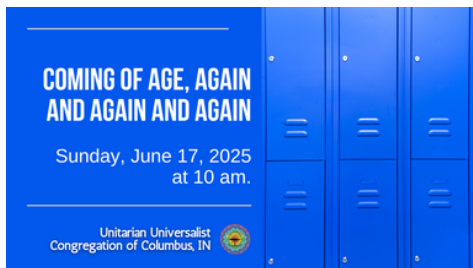
Meeting the Moment: Why We Were Made For Times Such As These Sunday, August 3, 2025

The theme for the 2025 General Assembly of the UUA was Meet the Moment. In every era, we must ask whether we were made for times such as these. Unitarian Universalists hold a bone-deep belief in our human capacity to rise to meet the needs of the day. However, this requires us to be deliberate in our reflection and action as individuals and a community. How might we prepare our hearts for the journey ahead? What will it take for us to truly "celebrate love and work for justice" in an increasingly polarized society and facing a more blatantly authoritarian administration? Rev. Nic will invite us to reflect and act in ways that help us to meet this moment together.



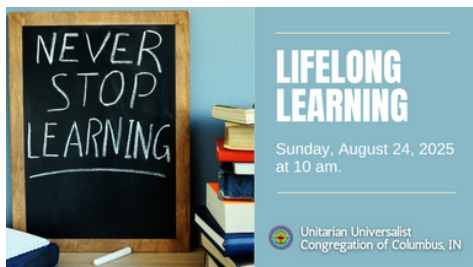
Joy and Woe are Woven Fine Sunday, August 10, 2025

William Blake suggested that "Joy and woe are woven fine. A clothing for the soul divine." In the turbulent times in which we are living, it is important to be among those who honor your joy and your woe, your happiness and your sorrow. For it is in that recognition of the "clothing" we wear that we come to honor the divine within each of us and foster an ethic of care for one another and the world. Rev. Nic will explore the sacred textile of our lives.



Coming of Age, Again and Again and Again Sunday, August 17, 2025

It is sometimes easy to think that the most profound moments in our lives happen in our formative years as children and youth. However, we are in fact always "Coming of Age" throughout our lives. In fact, as we go further through life those thresholds of change are compounded by all of the accumulated transitions that happened earlier on the journey. As a community of all ages, we seek to be a space where we can all come of age, again and again, and support one another through it all.



Lifelong Learning Sunday, August 24, 2025

Join Adrienne Summerlot for a service that explores spiritual learning for all ages.



Revolution Begins with a Dream: UUA General Assembly Sunday Service Highlights Sunday, May 25, 2025

The largest gathering of Unitarian Universalists each year is the Sunday Service at the UUA General Assembly. Many UUs do not attend the GA and miss out on these great services. As a result, we are presenting a segment of this past June's service. There will still be familiar elements to this Sunday Service and feel longtimers and newcomers alike will find this service inspiring and interesting.

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

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

LETTER FROM THE MINISTER

DEAR COMMUNITY,

As I prepare for another congregational year, our ninth together, I am reminded of a lot of staff transitions I experienced my first weeks at UUCCI in July 2017. If you weren't here at that time, when I began bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, our beloved religious education professional, Susan Burton, told me on my first week of work that she was needing to resign due to some medical challenges she was facing. And then a few weeks later, our admin rock, Heather Wadley, shared that she anticipates in the next year being relocated with her husband and kids because he is in the military. Well, gee whiz, I felt, "hopefully seminary taught me all these essential tools for non-profit management!"

Thankfully, administration has been a passion of mine and we were able to adapt to those staffing changes and in fact have been on a staffing journey ever since. Through pandemic and financial uncertainty, through political upheavals and renewed hope, our staff team has seen many iterations in my time with you all, each with its own multicultural gifts and growing edges. Over the past couple months we said goodbye to Louise Hillery who served faithfully on staff for five years and a decade longer as a volunteer pianist and choir director. Louise was a cornerstone of our staff integrity and I celebrate her good service and return into the full life of the congregation. Thank you, Louise!

As August begins, to paraphrase the Prince song, I am "partying/ministering like it's 2017". Louise isn't just departing after years of faithful service, we are seeing new staff joining. In 2017 the new staff was not only me as your new minister, but also Deb Staebler and Kim Wadholm just around the corner. In 2025, there are also three new staff joining the congregation. Kaila and Gabby Lifferth will be starting this August as Music Director and Pianist, respectively. Judson Webb will join the team in a couple weeks as our Intern Minister. That's a whole lot of change, that's a whole lot of new, that's a whole lot of possibility!

In preparation for our staff retreat in a few weeks, I had each of our six person staff team take a short personality quiz online to identify the role they play in social change ecosystems. This is a part of a resource we will be utilizing this fall and on the journey ahead as a framework for thinking about the unique gifts we all bring to this community and the ways we can bring the best out of one another by fostering social change within the congregation, on the interfaith campus, and in the wider society that best aligns with our objectives, mission, and vision, as outlined in our Imagine 2030 strategic plan. Along with Sunday Services dedicated to this framework there will be adult programs and more ways to engage the content because the Unitarian Universalist Association named *Social Change Now: A Guide for Reflection and Connection* by Deepa Iyer the 2025-2026 Common Read. Stay tuned for more information!

In the meantime, I had a question that is a teaser for the journey we are embarking on this month. "What do you get when you bring together a Visionary, Two Experimenters, a Builder, Healer, and a Caregiver?" One amazing staff team! Those terms might not immediately register what it means given this social change framework, but I can say is that I feel so lucky to be surrounded by and personally supporting a staff team with many gifts. And while there will be a lot of new faces on staff this fall, here's the twist: there are more new faces within the congregation, and just as the staff each have gifts, so do you. I can't wait to learn more about your gifts, your passions, your interests, and your hopes for changing this world into the one we dream about. Imagine what a force, what a beacon, we can be in the world, when we lean into these gifts, when we lean into one another and face the challenges before us not in fear and despair, but with love and courageous action.

With Gratitude,

REV. NIC CABLE



UUCCI Minister

Music at UUCCI: _____

THIS IS NOT GOOD-BYE!

A Personal Note from Louise Hillery

This month begins a new page for Music at UUCCI with our new Music Director Kaila Lifferth and our new Pianist Gabby Lifferth. Because we found them so fast, almost before we started looking, I didn't get a chance in the last newsletter to express what my time leading music for this congregation has meant to me personally.

These past years making music at UUCCI have been the high point of my life. I have called it a privilege, an honor, and a joy. But it's more than that. The relationships that musicians form when learning or performing together is more than just friendship. It's more like cousins: we've had similar pathways, and we become close like a family, in the best sense.

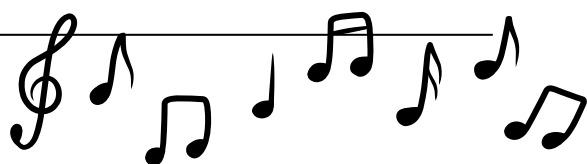
I've been able to learn from experienced musicians and share some knowledge with others just beginning to dip their toes in the water of music-making together. And there are other members, who begin conversations with me by saying, "I don't know anything about music, but..." From those members, I have been able to learn how music affects them and what they wonder about, and I am inspired by their interest in learning more.

Unlike typical retirements, I am fortunate to stay among my friends at UUCCI. But I want everyone to understand that I will be keeping my hands entirely out of music for a while, to allow Kaila and Gabby to discern and build the music programs that they dream about, without my ghost looking over their shoulders.

Thanks for the memories! Please join me in welcoming Kaila and Gabby to our loving and growing congregation.



August 2025





YOU CAN JOIN THE FUN!

If you enjoy singing and good company, you'll love the choir! No prior experience necessary. Rehearsals are on Wednesday nights, and performances are on Sunday mornings. If you have questions, talk to Kaila Lifferth at music@uucci.org

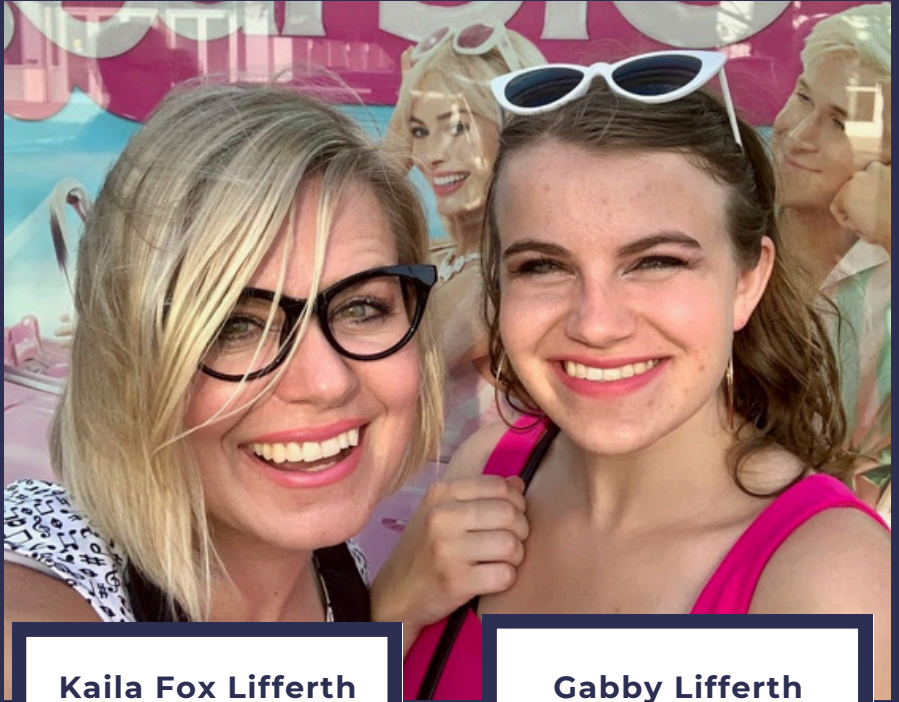
Rehearsals will begin on August 13th!



WELCOME TO UUCCI!



Judson Webb
Intern Minister



Kaila Fox Lifferth
Music Director

Gabby Lifferth
Pianist

WITH GREAT JOY, WE CELEBRATE THE ADDITION OF THREE NEW STAFF MEMBERS THIS AUGUST! PLEASE JOIN US IN WELCOMING KAILA AND GABBY ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 3RD.

JUDSON WILL BE JOINING US MID-AUGUST AS OUR INTERN MINISTER. WE HOPE THAT EVERYONE WILL HELP THEM TO FEEL WELCOME AS THEY SETTLE IN TO OUR CONGREGATION.



**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!



Each week, we will dig into superheroes' origin stories to reveal what makes them so powerful. Together, we will discover what makes their minds and hearts so strong. Every step along the way, you will also see how you can be just like them. And then you can show the world just how great of a superhero you are.

Are you up for the challenge?

August 3 Teen Titans: Go With Your Friends

August 10- Guardians of the Galaxy:

No Two Teammates are Alike

August 17- Wonder Woman: Warrior of Love

August 24- Spiderman: A Web of Responsibility

August 31-Black Panther: Leaders are Made Not Born



We hope to have fun together, and find engaging ways to build community!

YOUTH GROUP AT UUCCI

Did you know that we have 20 kids in 6th-8th grade and 10 kids in 9th-11th grade here at UUCCI?

Our awesome team of youth advisors: Sunny Currier, Jennifer Schall, Hattie Cable, and Judson Webb are looking forward to a fun filled year with opportunities for deep connection. Throughout the year, youth are encouraged to lend a hand at Hot Meals once a month, ways to be involved in Sunday Services, Junior Youth Choir, and a few special events this Fall!

Youth Group
Begins
Sunday
September
14th

friends

Who?

youth in
6th-12th grade!
AND
Awesome
youth
advisors!

When? Sunday
Mornings
10:15-11:15 am

Where?

Meet in the
youth room /library

What?

We'll explore and act on our social justice passions, learn about our own and others' spirituality, and find leadership opportunities in church and the larger community.



JENNIFER



HATTIE



SUNNY



JUDSON

★FUN★



VOLUNTEER FOR PRIDE AND JOIN THE PARTY!

If you would like to volunteer at UUCCI's pride booth on Saturday, September 6th, [click here to sign up](#) for any of the following volunteer opportunities:

- ♥ Set Up: Arrive at 11 am and set up our booth. A tent and banner will be available for pick up at UUCCI
- ♥ First Shift from 12-2:30 pm: Greet guests who visit our booth and tell them a little about UUCCI
- ♥ Second Shift from 2:30 - 5 pm: Greet guests who visit our booth and tell them a little about UUCCI
- ♥ Clean Up: Pack up the booth and supplies
- ♥ Hydration Helper: It gets HOT at Pride Fest! If you can't stay long, but want to walk around for a bit, sign up to drop off a cooler with water for our volunteers
- ♥ Gifts For Our Guests: We will have some flyers and information about UUCCI, but you can sign up to drop off a bowl of candy, rainbow fans, or any other goodies that you think guests might enjoy!

CLICK HERE TO VOLUNTEER!

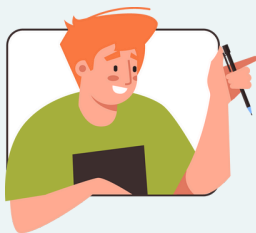
INVOLVEMENT FAIR AT UUCCI!



AUGUST 24, 2025



**11:30 AM
AFTER SERVICE**



Grab a coffee and visit the many booths set up in Fellowship Hall to learn about the many programs and teams that serve the needs of our congregation at UUCI and others in our community!

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS TEAM

Learn home improvement or landscaping skills while helping to keep our facility beautiful and welcoming!

Jon Fischer - farmbrewer@gmail.com

PASTORAL CARE TEAM

Help support members of our congregation in need of care through cards, carpooling, or just reaching out.

Jim Farless - jfarless@comcast.net

SUNDAY HOSPITALITY TEAM

Our greeters, coffee volunteers, and flower organizers help everyone feel welcome and comfortable on Sundays.

Marcia Walker - mwalker@epowerc.net

TECH TEAM

Our Sunday services involve, music, slides, video, recordings, and more. Lend a hand, and learn some new skills!

Marty Iwamuro - tech@uucci.org

GLOBAL / LOCAL ACTION

Think globally and act locally! Join in a variety of projects to serve the local community and meet new people!

Cathy Caldie - cathycaldie28@gmail.com

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION TEAM

Get involved with local projects to protect the planet and use energy more efficiently.

Kathleen Leason - kmleason@gmail.com

HOT MEALS PROGRAM

Join our friends at First Presbyterian as we serve hot meals to the community once a month.

Patti Wade - wade.patti@gmail.com

2025 CALENDAR

AUTUMN PREVIEW



Annual Water Communion

Sunday, September 7 at 10 am

Each year, we celebrate the beginning of our new congregational year with a water communion. During this special ritual, we invite everyone to bring water from home or a nearby water source to share in our service on Sunday.



Pitch In Lunch after Water Communion

Sunday, September 7 at 11:30 am

Join us after the service for a pitch-in lunch!
Please bring a nut and sesame-free dish



Womens Group

Return of the Women's Group!

Thursday, September 16

Women's Group will start fall meetings on Tuesday, September 16th. More info on that meeting will be forthcoming. Most meetings will be on the third Tuesday of each month, but occasionally will be different. See the Friday reminders and the monthly newsletters to keep up with the what's going on with Women's Group. Interested in going to see the comedian Kristin Key at the Helium Comedy Club on September 21st? There are still tickets left.

Women's Group meets monthly with occasional "field trips" on other days. Keep up on what's going on each month as meeting places or times may change. Typically, we will meet on the third Tuesday of each month and the meeting may be in the UUCI fellowship hall or at someone's home. Meeting topics may include women's spirituality, feminist theology, creative arts, connecting with nature, women's rights activism, book or article discussions, community and friendship developing, and much more! All women and those who identify as women are invited to attend. You need not be a member of UUCI to come to the meetings.

All are welcome! Contact Carol Kostrzewsky
ckostrze@iu.edu to be put on the e-mail list to receive information about upcoming meetings and events and read the monthly newsletter and Friday reminders for updates.

2025 CALENDAR

AUTUMN PREVIEW

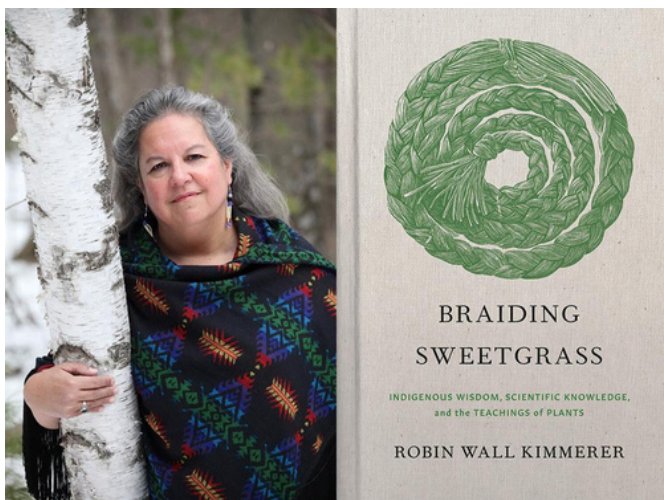
CiViCS LITERACY LAB

PRESENTED BY **MAD VOTERS**

Civics Literacy Lab

Wednesday, Sept 17 at 2 and 6 pm

Politics and government can be confusing topics. Are you wanting to gain a better understanding of how our government and voting system works? Are you wanting to learn more about major issues like healthcare, education, and economics? Do you want to help voters during the 2026 election, but aren't sure where to start? This Civics Literacy Lab is a great opportunity to learn and get involved! There are TWO SESSIONS to choose from, so grab a friend, and join the cause!



Watch Party

Tuesday, September 30 from 5:30 - 8:30 pm

All are invited to join the Environmental Action Team for a video presentation of Robin Wall Kimmerer speaking to Faith in Place teams that includes some of our faith partners.

Youth and Adults Retreat & Campout



Friday, September 19th
Saturday, September 20th



Youth and Adults Retreat & Campout

Friday, September 19th
Saturday, September 20th

Designed for 6th-12th graders and their adults

Join us for shared dinner, fun, games, art, conversation around the fire, and more!

Option to campout overnight on the grounds. Morning gathering for shared breakfast and fellowship.

We will begin our gathering Friday evening at 6pm and end by 12pm on Saturday.

ANNUAL AUCTION DINNER!



SATURDAY, SEPT 13 @ 5:30 - 8:30 PM

**DONATE • VOLUNTEER • RELAX
EAT • BID • LAUGH • HAVE FUN!**

**ENJOY A NIGHT OUT WITH A LASAGNA DINNER, FRIENDS,
AND AN AUCTION TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE PROGRAMS AND
COMMUNITY PROJECTS OFFERED BY UUCCI.**

**AVAILABLE AUCTION ITEMS:
BEAUTIFUL DECORATIONS, UNIQUE ARTWORK FROM LOCAL
ARTISTS, FUN EXPERIENCES, AND NEW SURPRISES EACH
YEAR!**

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO LEND A HAND OR DONATE AN ITEM,
VISIT THE LINK BELOW OR CONTACT CAROL KOSTRZEWSKY
AT CKOSTRZE@IU.EDU**



**REGISTER TO VOLUNTEER,
DONATE, OR BID BY CLICKING
HERE, SCANNING THE QR CODE
OR VISITING THE LINK BELOW:**

[BIT.LY/UUCCI2025AUCTION](https://bit.ly/uucci2025auction)



Death Cafe 2025

Making Uncomfortable Topics More Comfortable



**FIRST THURSDAYS 2:00-3:30 PM IN
FELLOWSHIP HALL**

SEP 4

OCT 3

NOV 6

DEC 4

We all die. And yet death can be a very difficult topic to talk about. Death Cafes provide a chance to be together to eat cake and talk about death. Why a Death Café? We know that talking about death to the point that we normalize it as a part of life helps reduce anxiety about our own death and the death of loved ones - and helps us live more fully. 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.

Visit uucci.org/deathcafe to find info and helpful resources!

UUCCI PROGRAMS

AUGUST 2025

Cooking Across Cultures

Friday, August 2 at 5:30 pm

UUCCI and CAC invite you to join our host as she leads us for an evening of creating savory Macedonian pastries! We will meet at UUCCI on Saturday, August 2 at 5:30pm. We will be making four types of pastries including:

- Gibanica - an egg and cheese phyllo bake
- Kiflinja - a croissant-shaped bread roll
- Pitulici - a layered crepe dish filled with garlic and walnuts
- Zelnik - a laminated dough filled with vegetables and cheese

We will enjoy our culinary creations with sides like ajvar, feta, olives, peppers, and yogurt.

As always, donations help cover the cost of supplies. Space is limited, so register today by emailing Kate Slabosky at kslabosky@gmail.com. We hope to see you there!

Greeter Re-Orientation

Sunday, August 3 at 11:30 am

Whether you are curious about serving as a greeter on Sundays or you are a seasoned expert, all are invited to join us for a re-orientation meeting. Together, we will go over some important steps to help our new visitors feel welcomed and comfortable, safety considerations for greeters, and more!

Financial Team Meeting

August 5 at 1 pm

Pastoral Care Team Meeting

Wednesday, August 6 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

Spiritual Living Circle

Monday, August 11 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.

Choir Practice

Wednesday, August 13 at 7 pm

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

Board Meeting

Thursday, August 21

Involvement Fair

Sunday, August 24 at 11:30 am

Grab a coffee and visit the many booths set up around the building to learn about the many programs and teams that serve the needs of our congregation at UUCCI and others in our community!

COLUMBUS INTERFAITH

EVENTS AT UUCCI INTERFAITH CAMPUS

First Harvest Celebration **Sunday, August 3 at 6 pm** **at UUCCI**

First Harvest Celebration

SUNDAY, August 3 at 6 pm at UUCCI

Join us as we celebrate the beginning of the harvest season on August 3rd! We will have a variety of activities, so check out the schedule below to plan your visit.

6 pm: Feast With Friends

Our coven's council members are providing some filling main dishes including chili, rotisserie chicken, and more! Bring a side dish to share, and a donation for our Green Goddess Food Pantry.

7 PM: Ritual Begins

All are welcome to participate in a group ritual to celebrate the fruits of our Summer's labor, whether spiritual, emotional, financial, or physical. The ritual will begin with a guided meditation to reflect on themes of the harvest (generosity, sacrifice, nourishment, and cyclical growth). Copies of this ritual will be available for guests to review before joining in. After the ritual, we will bless the food we have gathered for the food pantry, sharing our prosperity in this time of plenty.

8 PM: Bonfire & Bardcraft

Join us around the fire for some DIY entertainment! Bring an instrument, tall tale, favorite poem, funny story, or just enjoy the ruckus.

Interfaith Dinner **August 13 at 6 pm** **at UUCCI**

6pm- Pitch In Dinner

7pm- Learning and Conversation

All are invited to attend these monthly gatherings of our neighboring faith communities.

Ordination Ceremony **Saturday, August 16 at 5:00 pm** **at UUCCI**

All of our friends at UUCCI are invited to celebrate the ordination of Brittany Phillips, CMC as the minister of Tree of Knowledge Community Coven, following her graduation from Cherry Hill Seminary.

Come as you are, wear what you like, and enjoy a pitch-in dinner with friends following the service.