

J U L Y 2 0 2 3 I S S U E

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

S H A R I N G O U R S T O R I E S

*We Share Our
Stories Here*

By Louise Hillery

PEACE CAMP & FLOWER
COMMUNION MEMORIES

POETRY OF THE MONTH:

MIDSUMMER

&

THE CALL OF THE
WILD WOODS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Upcoming Sunday Services

03 "Sharing Our Stories"

Letter From the Minister

04 Preview the August sermon series

Splinters From The Board

05 Updates From Linda Iwamuro

Poetry of the Month

08 Skye Nicholson & Brittany Phillips

UUCI Events

13 How to Find "Your People"

Interfaith Events

14 Celebrate Together

Classifieds

15 Make Connections & New Friends





SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday Mornings at 10 am

Spiritual Journeys will return this July for the sixth year! This July, our spiritual journeys will take the form of "Sharing Our Stories". We have devoted this month to telling the stories of our community. Over the past three years, due to the challenges of the pandemic and the blessings of technology, these services have taken on a multimedia quality. Join us around the tables in Fellowship Hall for a casual service that combines prerecorded videos and music with a live, facilitated Q/A or group conversation to learn more about the lives and journeys of our friends in the congregation.

JULY 2 *Lori Swanson*

With worship associate Steve Jasper

JULY 9 *Brittany Phillips*

With worship associate Skye Nicholson

JULY 16 *Walt & Joan Able*

With worship associate Cynthia Scott

JULY 23 *Louise Hillery*

With worship associate Chris Kevitt

JULY 30 *Mary Lu Orr*

With worship associate Liz Nolan-Greven

LETTER FROM THE MINISTER

DEAR COMMUNITY,

While the beginning of July marks the start of the second half of the year, it is also the approximate midpoint for summer vacation. Growing up I couldn't fathom going back to school in August. Labor Day was always the time to prepare to start a new year of learning and connection with friends at school. After six years, I have come to appreciate the ebb and flow of the year, in regards to the turning of the seasons in beautiful southern Indiana and the cycle from one year to the next. My family marks its anniversary in moving to Columbus on July 1. And so it is we begin to look toward and wonder what the new year will bring for us all.

I've been thinking about our community and the year before us. We've had quite the adventure this past year with taking our first sabbatical, separate and together. What is to come as we travel around the sun once more? I think I am very much looking forward to seeing you all in community after many years of interruptions of our flow due to the pandemic. Indeed, this year ahead will be the first unobstructed year (knock on wood) since the 2018-2019 program year. Many of you have begun attending during the pandemic and as we have turned to a post-pandemic life over the past year. I hope this year ahead is one where we all taste the richness of community and being a part of a congregation whose values call us to celebrate love and work for justice.

One thing that I believe will help us as a congregation to reset, ground, and prepare for the year ahead is to do a bit of refresher on Unitarian Universalism. Consider it a "UU 101" of sorts. As our children return to school this August, may we all choose to return to community together. Over the course of four Sundays I will explore UU history, theology, ethics, and community. We will answer questions that are important for us to consider:

History (August 6)

What is our history? What does our history tell us about today?

Theology (August 13)

What do we believe? How are our beliefs changing today?

Ethics (August 20)

What do we do? What are we called to do today?

Community (August 27)

Who are we together? Who are we becoming?

I encourage you to try to attend as many as you can, for I hope they can enhance one another as we see a greater fullness of this liberal religion for which we have chosen to explore together in community. The series in August would also be a great time to bring friends, neighbors, or family who have been curious but maybe haven't made that leap to explore UUCI, yet. If the pandemic has taught us anything is that we need one another and none of us can survive alone.

May we enjoy this beautiful summer! I cannot wait to see how we learn and grow together in community in the coming year.

With Gratitude,



REV. NIC CABLE
UUCCI Minister

SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD

"When we share our stories, we are reminded of the humanity in each other, and when we take the time to understand each other's stories, we become more forgiving, more empathetic, and more inclusive"

- Michelle Obama

Hello Friends!

July is the month that we turn to our members, who give thoughtful perspectives on their lives through our Sunday service, "Sharing Our Stories." We are grateful to each of them for their willingness to share.

For each of us, as we begin again to experience more fully what it is like to be in community once more, take the opportunity to share your own story, whether from the distant past or today. Deepening our connections with each other are gifts we give ourselves and others.

Enjoy the summer!

Linda Swamuro

Board President

We Share Our Stories Here

Louise Hillery, Acting Music Director

Does that title sound familiar? It's a line from our new congregational song that we wrote with Carrie Newcomer: "The kitchen hums; the coffee's warm; we share our stories here."

We're excited about the new, casual services that the Sunday Service Team is preparing for July. These services keep this congregation's long-time custom of having individual congregation members or couples tell their own stories of life and the events and circumstances that made them the person they are today. Instead of calling these services "Spiritual Journeys" as in the past, we will now call them "Sharing Our Stories." The new name emphasizes that these summer services will be a way to get acquainted with the whole person, whether they think of themselves as spiritual or not.

We will gather in Fellowship Hall around tables, as many of us already like to do on Sunday mornings, before or after services. Hopefully, the sacramental coffee will be ready when people arrive. This depends on volunteers (HINT, HINT) so contact Marcia Walker if you'd like to take a turn coming early to start the coffee pot.

There will be an opening and chalice lighting as usual. Then a videotaped talk or interview will be projected on the west wall. We will have a photo sequence of scenes from the person's life accompanied by their favorite music, which they have chosen to share with you. And lastly, there will be a discussion time of some sort hosted by the Sunday Service Team member who helped assemble the service.

The mood of these services will be casual, and we hope that fits your summer mood.



CIRCLE OF *Song* RETURNS!

On Thursday evening, July 6, listen for the sound of fun. Or better yet, come join us for the casual folk-singing event called Circle of Song.

We tried a new thing this past year: a regular weekly gathering of anyone who liked to sing, based on requests only. Using both the piano and Sondra Bolte's guitar, we developed a songbook of our favorite singalongs, and had some beautiful nights featuring "old" voices of long-time choir members, and "new" voices of people who insisted they really were not singers.

There were some problems. Because choir had not come back very well after the Covid shutdown, we mixed the fun singing with serious work preparing songs for certain Sunday services. Also, meeting every week was too often, as it turned out.

by Louise Hillery, Acting Music Director

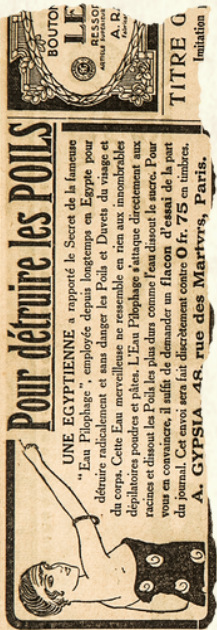
This year, we'll try to be more clear about our purpose. Circle of Song will be only for the pleasure of singing, with singers choosing all the songs, and no pressure to perform. If you are shy about your singing abilities for any reason, this is the place to be. All are welcome. A beautiful voice is not required. The ability to read music is not required.

We will meet from 7:00 to 8:00 PM on the first Thursday of each month. Our first few dates are July 6, August 3, September 7, and October 5. I hope you'll drop in and join us when you can. Just for fun.

Midsummer

by Skye Nicholson

I never truly believed in magic
until I saw the way the earth gave birth
to those fireflies at dusk
launching them up
like embers
from her darkening womb
who knew I
would one day become
a cosmic chromosomal canvas
nothing real ever knows its beginning
Imagined / Created / Believed
we are all just
blinking between worlds
spectrums scattering like sprites
tossing photons of glitter
breadcrumbs in the stream
be still and listen—
river notes of the nix play over pebbles
singing sirens for the charcoal sky
listen—
Titania and Oberon
never stay long



The Call of the Wild Woods

By Brittany Phillips

I hear the call of the wild woods
reminding me that I am wild, too,
Inviting me to walk its halls
of stained glass leaves and mossy pew.

And as I wander the dirtfloor ailes
with barefeet blessed by morning dew,
I admire the green cathedral built
from sturdy oak and twisted yew.

From wood not carved, and stones unmoved
A shelter created by the land.
The sanctuary grows, its visitors, too
Temple and wanderer, hand in hand.

And as I rest upon the ground,
forgetting the worries outside this place,
I give a sigh, a prayer, my thanks,
That the Earth created this sacred space.

I must return, as most folks do,
To the world so tame and mild.
May we all answer the call of the woods
When we forget that we're wild.



and hi
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»Ich n
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ad da
Ich p
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Thank you to everyone who helped
us to create and dedicate our new
Mary Lu Orr Sensory Garden!

CATE HYATT



DEAN SCHERTZ

And our amazing sabbatical team





Interfaith Peace Camp

We were thrilled to welcome the return of Peace Camp at UUCI this June. Through our partners at Interfaith Columbus, we were able to gather for the week rooted in learning about peace together with both volunteers and almost 50 children from our larger faith community.

Song leaders from First United Methodist Church welcomed our children during the morning, the kids explored yoga and Bollywood dancing with our neighbors at Sri Ganesh Mandir, and the children learned Dances of Universal Peace with friends here at UUCI. They explored the grounds and learned how to forage for honeysuckle, walk the labyrinth, and look for animal tracks. Our generous neighbor Tony shared his pond with us and the kids learned how to fish using corn kernels. We concluded camp with a pitch in and camp out which was s'more fun than we could have imagined.

WE INVITE YOU TO VIEW OUR FUN VIA [SLIDESHOW HERE](#).



SAVE THE DATE!

We hope you will join us next year, Save the Dates- June 10-14, 2024!



Special thanks to all of our volunteers for making this amazing event possible!

An interfaith collaboration with:
 First Presbyterian Church • First United Methodist • Open Mind Zen
 Sri Ganesh Mandir • Sha'arei Shalom • Tree of Knowledge • UUCI



Flower Communion Memories



This year marks the hundredth anniversary of the Flower Communion! 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.

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. Thank you to all who joined us in sharing flowers, fellowship, and memories.



ANNUAL UUCCI AUCTION

We Are
Better Together

We Can Have an
Auction!
August 19

Start Thinking About Your:

- Knowledge
- Favorite Adventures
- Special Skills
- Culinary Delights
- Arts & Crafts
- Get-Away Spot

UUCCI PROGRAMS

JULY 2023

Circle of Song

Thursday, July 6 at 7 pm

The purpose of Circle of Song is to get together as friends and sing just for the fun of it.

Sunday Services Team Meeting

Friday, July 7 at 10:30 am

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

Spiritual Living Circle

Monday, July 10 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.

Backyard Gathering - Adult Party

Wednesday, July 19 at 6:00 pm

Bob Hyatt is hosting a gathering around the fire pit, and all adults are welcome to join.

Board Meeting

Thursday, July 20 at 6:30 pm

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

Building & Grounds Team Meeting

Wednesday, July 26 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

Buck Wild Full Moon Party

Sunday, July 2 at 8 pm

Tree of Knowledge Indiana

This event is for ages 18+

Celebrate the Buck Moon with a feast honoring the God of the Fields and Forest. Join us around the fire as the sun sets for stories, animal themed meditations, and share a ritual to connect with animal energies in our lives. Bring an item representing an animal to add to the altar and a dish to share.

For questions, please contact Brittany Phillips at admin@gmail.com

Group Meditation & Dharma Talk

Sunday, July 9 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

Columbus Interfaith Meeting

Wednesday, July 12 at 6 pm

UUCCI Interfaith Campus

Each month, the guiding members of Columbus Interfaith meet to discuss upcoming events, organize the shared calendar for the campus space, and share support. For more info, contact Nic Cable at minister@uucci.org

Red Tent Women's Circle

Saturday, July 15 at 5 pm

Tree of Knowledge Indiana

Each month, we gather to heal and celebrate each other. This month, our Red Tent Womens circle will be centered around menstruation. Along with enjoying discussions, crafts, and food, we will also be creating menstrual care packages to distribute to shelters, food pantries, and community shelves around Columbus. Please bring a side dish to share as well as any of the following products that you can spare:

- ♥ Small makeup bags (like Ipsy)
- ♥ Packages of pads or tampons
- ♥ Travel sized wet wipes
- ♥ Small hand sanitizers
- ♥ Snack sized ziplock bags
- ♥ Small gifts (nail polish, lip balm, etc)
- ♥ Chocolates
- ♥ Info Cards from Turning Point Shelter

For questions, please contact Brittany Phillips at admin@gmail.com

Group Meditation & Dharma Talk

Sunday, July 23 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

UUCCI CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

DOG SITTER NEEDED

THIS IS BENZIE. HE NEEDS A SITTER FOR 3-5 WEEKS THIS FALL.



Not only is he very handsome, he has a lovely personality. He likes being scratched, but doesn't slobber (much) or chew or lick or bite. He loves people, loves to be walked and loves to swim. He is a hound dog so he can't just run because he might smell something yummy. He probably wouldn't be great in a house with cats or bunnies. He's also a good watchdog but doesn't bark just for the sake of it.

If you know of anyone who might be willing to keep him for several weeks this fall (starting August 24) we would be super happy to contact them! Please advise. 812-390-5176. Thanks! Liz and Michael

VOLUNTEERS FOR SUNDAY MORNINGS

Volunteers for Sunday morning greeting and making coffee are being recruited each month. 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 a parent, enjoy spending time with children, or would rather stretch your legs during service, we would love to have you as a child care volunteer for Sunday mornings! Contact Adrienne at children@uucci.org to learn how you can get in on the fun!

COMMUNITY

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](#)

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

THANK YOU

YARD SALE HELPERS

Many thanks go to everyone who donated to, worked, and shopped the recent church yard sale. Thanks to you we made over \$1,750 for our church programs!