

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 2 3 I S S U E

UUCCI NEWSLETTER

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And Join the
Musical Fun*

By Louise Hillery

**WHAT CAN I DO TO FIGHT
THE CLIMATE CRISIS?**
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**EXCITING
UPDATES FOR
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*Water
Communion
Is Around
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SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday Mornings at 10 am

SEP 3 *The Gift of Change: Highlights from the
2023 Service of the Living Tradition*

With Special Guest Rev. Chris Buice

Change is hard! But might there be gifts that come from change? If change is going to come, how do we prepare for it and participate in its unfolding? At this year's Service of the Living Tradition held at the annual General Assembly of UU congregations, Rev. Chris Buice delivered a compelling sermon on change within and beyond our communities. This hybrid service will include both live elements we are accustomed to at UUCI and a presentation of Rev. Buice's message with special music from the SLT at GA.

SEP 10 *The Gifts of Laughter and Tears:
An All-Ages Water Communion*

With Rev. Nic Cable

Our Annual Water Communion is an all-ages celebration of the gift that is our community. Everyone is invited to bring some water from your home, a local source of water, or some other body of water from your travels. We will gather these into a common bowl a symbol of the strength of our community when we come together. We will also explore the various waters we produce through our laughter and tears, recognizing the importance of being in touch with the breadth of human emotion.





SEP 17 *The Gift of Nothing: Recognizing
the Dignity and Worthiness of All*

With Rev. Nic Cable

In our consumerist, capitalist, labor driven world, we will explore the gift of "nothingness". Through an alternative notion of living, rooted not in the means of production or where value is determined by one's productiveness but through one's value and sacredness emerging from ethical living, Rev. Nic will offer nothing that you don't already have within you. We will consider what will be gained if we embrace nothingness as a path toward our collective liberation.

SEP 24 *The Gift of Forgiveness: Jewish
Teachings on the Delicate Journey
of the Human Heart*

With Rev. Nic Cable

Forgiveness is a complicated and fraught topic. The harms that humans, groups, communities, and nations face span any number of gradations of severity and the processes for repairing or restoring or healing from these harms are just as widely varied. Looking to wisdom found in Jewish teachings on forgiveness, we will explore how we think, feel, talk about, and engage in this delicate journey of the human heart.

*All are welcome to join us for service each Sunday.
If you are interested in visiting UUCCI, but would
like to hear more about our community over a cup
of coffee, please contact Brittany Phillips at
admin@uucci.org*

LETTER FROM THE MINISTER

DEAR COMMUNITY,

There really is a lot of amazing energy as we have entered a new congregational year together in community. Lots of familiar faces and new faces, lots of kids and teens, wonderful music, and time to socialize and make new and deepened friendships. Throughout the month of September, “Gifts” will be the focus of our Sunday morning services. Over four Sundays, we will explore topics such as change and anxiety, laughter and tears, nothingness, and forgiveness and healing. The services and our Sunday morning community time will continue to build upon the meaningful experiences we have felt throughout August.

One additional exploration of gifts will unfold in September and throughout this year. We each offer gifts, even by our mere presence, to this community. Each of us is a gift to this community and over time I think we come to realize how precious we are to one another. We each present different gifts at UUCI and together our gifts and strengths and passions and hope and dreams and collective work amplifies each other and helps us to live with integrity and character.

On August 27, the service focused on the roles we might place within “our community of hope and courage, where we celebrate love and work for justice” (UUCI Mission Statement). During that service 10 roles were laid out as possible gifts we may embody based solely on who we are as diverse human beings in our interdependent community and world. It is likely that one or more of these descriptions in the form of “I Statements” will resonate with you in some way. Here they are again, shared with attribution:

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Weavers: I see the through-lines of connectivity between people, places, organizations, ideas, and movements.

Experimenters: I innovate, pioneer, and invent. I take risks and course-correct as needed.

Frontline Responders: I address community crises by marshaling and organizing resources, networks, and messages.

Visionaries: I imagine and generate our boldest possibilities, hopes and dreams, and remind us of our direction.

Builders: I develop, organize, and implement ideas, practices, people, and resources in service of a collective vision.

Caregivers: I nurture and nourish the people around me by creating and sustaining a community of care, joy, and connection.

Disruptors: I take uncomfortable and risky actions to shake up the status quo, to raise awareness, and to build power.

Healers: I recognize and tend to the generational and current traumas caused by oppressive systems, institutions, policies, and practices.

Storytellers: I craft and share our community stories, cultures, experiences, histories, and possibilities through art, music, media, and movement.

Guides: I teach, counsel, and advise, using my gifts of well-earned discernment and wisdom.

These roles come from Iyer’s work as Senior Director of Strategic Initiatives at Building Movement Project and The Social Change Ecosystem Map. As we move into this month and year and explore how our individual gifts can be best shared, I hope we can imagine trying these roles on. Sometimes a little language can go along way to seeing ourselves as what we truly are—gifts.

I look forward to lifting up our gifts in community in the year to come.

With Gratitude,
REV. NIC CABLE
UUCI Minister

SPLINTERS

FROM THE BOARD

GETTING CONNECTED - STAYING INVOLVED

Congratulations to the Auction Team, who executed a stellar event on Saturday, August 20! We shared a tasty lasagna dinner, had good conversation with friends and bid what might be a record amount that will go toward fulfilling the mission of UUCI over the coming months.

On the last Sunday in August, you may have attended the Connections Fair after the service. I hope you were able to learn about all the ways to participate in the life of the congregation and found areas of interest that you can support. As Liz Nolan-Greven says, "many hands make light work".

The program year has started and the Fall Program Guide will be published this month. This is another opportunity to learn about areas in which our faith community is involved.

Our recent Sunday services have averaged over 70 attendees and I am sure you have noticed the many children joining Rev. Nic for the Wonder Box message.

With everything going on, sometimes it is a bit difficult to understand what is going on. I remember when I first started attending, the first months seemed like a blur at times.

For both new visitors and seasoned members, take a moment each Friday to read the emailed Friday Reminder. It is published around 10:00AM so you might look for it then. Facebook is another resource that has notices of upcoming events, both congregational and community-wide, that would be of interest to UU's.

Be on the lookout for a volunteer call out to help at the UUCI booth at the Columbus Pride Festival at Mill Race Park on September 30. We also have Halloween and New Year's events already posted! We like to plan ahead!

If you are still missing information about an area of interest to you, use our Board on Board service. Each week, a Board Trustee is designated as the Board member who is available to the congregation to answer questions, receive input about what is on your mind and anything else in between. Look for the name on the Board on Board message stand in the Narthex, between the Sanctuary and Fellowship. We would love to talk with you!

These are exciting times. There is a buzz in the air and a sense of renewed vitality.

In Community,
Linda Iwamuro
Board President - UUCI

MUSIC AT UUCCI



Get Involved And Join the Musical Fun

by Louise Hillery

Pianist and Music Coordinator

Music activities are under way for our new program year.

Circle of Song has met twice. We will meet again at 7:00 – 8:00 PM on Thursday, September 7, and Thursday, October 5. We sing hymns, folk tunes, protest songs, and other music. After a vocal warm-up, which may include upcoming hymns, the songs are all by request from our 30-page songbook.

The choir is starting a new project, to make video recordings of our most often-sung hymns, which members will be able to access online if they want to learn hymns for an upcoming service.

A short course in Music FUNdamentals will begin September 27 on Wednesday evenings. Members will learn the basics of reading printed music, to make it easier to follow along in our hymnals, and prepare people to join in more confidently in choir or other music groups. See the Fall 2023 Program Guide for details, or contact Louise at music@uucci.org.

Don't miss Fourth Friday Family Fun Night on Friday, September 22. Bring a snack to share as families gather at 6:00 PM, let the children run off some steam outdoors, then settle in at 7:00 for a night of entertainment from saxophonist Gary Woodworth, singer Lesley Reuter, poet/spoken word performer Matthew Jackson, and singer James Thur.

Do you have musical abilities to share or develop? Talk to Louise about how to get involved. As a professional musician, I can tell you it's the performers who have the most fun.



Cabaret Night

Friday, September 22 at 6 pm

Willkommen, Bienvenue, Welcome, to Cabaret at UUCCI! This will be a fun evening for all ages, including a pitch-in dinner and live entertainment. Please bring simple foods to share, such as snacks or finger foods. Pitch-in supper begins at 6:00. Kids can play outdoors after eating. The program begins at 7:00, featuring our own local talent: Lesley Reuter, Gary Woodworth, local poet Matthew Jackson, and James Thur.

Songs for the Shelter

Saturday, November 4 at UUCCI

Save the date! Join us for a benefit concert for the Bartholomew County Humane Society on November 4 at UUCCI. "Songs for the Shelter" will feature the headliners: Jackson Grimm Band and other musical acts. There will be snacks and libations, and some of the shelter dogs will be making an appearance early on in the evening.

Jan Lucas has recently released an EP of five songs online. It's called "The Hard Way Home: a story in five songs" and it features five different women vocalists on each song and a whole host of collaborators, musicians, writers, and producers. Right now it's available on Spotify, iTunes, and YouTube. Just look under Jan's name and it should pop up. Bandcamp will be available for listening to it soon, and CDs will be available in the fall with lyric sheets and images from the project. Any monies gained from the sale of any of these songs will be donated to Girls Rock! Music Camps of Indianapolis. Please spread the word and share the music!



Children and Youth Programming

We are looking forward to meeting again, beginning Sunday, September 17th after Time for All Ages for our kids programming. Our goal here at UUCCI is to foster a deep sense of community while providing opportunities for all ages to learn and grow while making new friends.

We can't wait for you to see updated spaces awaiting our lifelong learners: Our familiar Montessori inspired classroom (formerly known as the Flame Room) rich with invitations to explore will shift to the Elsie Weekly room.

A NEW! Makerspace for those wanting to nurture their creative spirit. This studio space will welcome special guests to share a passion or talent with those in attendance and also encourage children and youth to stoke the fires of their own passions and talents.

In Spring of 2023, we experimented with hosting bi monthly gatherings for our upper elementary and middle school aged children. We are thrilled to share that we have some exciting things in store for our youth in 5th grade and up! Sunny Currier will be working with volunteers to continue to support our emerging youth group to have fun through games, explore topics of spirituality, get involved in social justice projects, and provide leadership opportunities.



Volunteers make a vibrant church where children and youth are seen, known, loved, and supported. Please consider how you can help support Children and Youth programming and perhaps learning some things along the way that help you on your own spiritual journey!

[CLICK HERE TO VOLUNTEER !](#)
[OR EMAIL CHILDREN@UUCCI.ORG](mailto:CHILDREN@UUCCI.ORG)

GLOBAL ACTION TEAM NEWS

CSA ART AUCTION

SEPTEMBER 28 FROM 5-7 PM

Come out to support Ms. Nalley's Art students at CSA on September 28 in the Multipurpose room. The Art students at CSA are collaborating with Ecosource Sustainable Initiatives in a fun and creative fundraiser for solar panels at the Kitale Children's Home. Many chairs will be painted in students' individual creative styles and will be sold at the AUCTION on September 28 from 5-7 pm . Join Cathy and Sondra and all the students to show your support for them and the orphanage! It should be a fun evening! Thanks to all who donated chairs for the effort! We were very pleased with the amount of chairs that we were able to get for the students and they are excited!





RACIAL JUSTICE TEAM

INDIANA AVENUE HISTORY TOUR

Saturday, Sept. 9th

Indianapolis Urban League parking lot

Tour begins at 9 am.

**Guests should arrive
no later than 8:50 am.**

Tickets are between \$20 - \$30/ person
depending on the number of people attending

The Racial Justice Team is excited to offer an Indiana Avenue group tour led by Sampson Levingston, with through2eyes history tours in Indianapolis. In the late 1800's the center of African American life in Indianapolis was located on and around Indiana Ave. downtown. There was a vibrant jazz music culture and a bustling neighborhood to serve the African American community. This will be a 2 hour long, 2 mile walking tour. Please contact Kathleen Leason, kmleason@gmail.com, to reserve your spot.



ORGANIZED BY KATHLEEN LEASON

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION TEAM

WHAT CAN I DO TO FIGHT THE CLIMATE CRISIS?

by Liz Nolan Greven

The climate crisis feels overwhelming and almost impossible to do anything about, but it is ALL about the over use of fossil fuels. We humans burn too much fossil fuel!! That's all there is to it! So, knowing this, and although it seems like a drop in the bucket, ANYTHING we can do to prevent fossil fuels from being burned or lowering our own carbon emissions is a POSITIVE STEP in the right direction. Remember, many small steps, make a large step and will make a difference.

AT Home there are many things that can be done to lessen your carbon footprint. Here are some ideas:

1. Use reuseable bags when shopping. Plastic bags and all plastics are made from fossil fuels. If you forget your bag, don't take one at all or take a paper bag. Although paper uses trees, trees are renewable if they are grown for that purpose.
2. Try to buy less plastic all the way around. Toys, containers, everything is made from plastic nowadays, but plastics are not good because of how they are made, AND they are difficult to recycle. Glass is much easier to recycle and reuse.
3. Use a rake or a broom or a shove instead of a leafblower or snowblower. yes, it's more convenient, but all those tools burn fossil fuels!
4. Try to drive a smaller or hybrid car so that you're not burning so much fuel. While you're at it, don't idle when you go to the bank or drive through. Turn off your car if you're stuck in traffic! No need to just keep on burning that bad stuff!
5. Plant pollinator attracting plants and more trees to counterbalance your burning of fossil fuels.
6. Hang your laundry instead of using the dryer. Again, the dryer is a huge consumer of electricity/power.
7. Turn off lights and unplug cords when you are not using them. Save Energy!!
8. Don't use Round Up or fertilizer on your lawn and garden. Round up is a carcinogen and bad for worms, butterflies and children and pets, not to mention YOU! Use horticultural vinegar instead on poison ivy and weeds. Wear glasses when doing so as it is quite potent. Fertilizer just makes your grass grow more and then you end up mowing your lawn more often Which, you guessed it, burns fossil fuels! In fact, maybe you could just leave some of your lawn uncut. There's no law against having a nice meadow (which attracts pollinators) in your yard.
9. Shop less in general. Online shopping is oh so convenient but very toxic for the communities where the trucks are delivering and picking up at all those warehouses! Try to shop less. Shop local. Buy recycled or reused paper products, clothes, etc. Nowadays, you can find everything in "tree free" or recycled paper form, even TP!
10. Grow some of your own food. Start a neighborhood garden. Do some canning for the winter. Raise chickens in your backyard. All good practices that bring you closer to the earth and an appreciation for where your food comes from AND lowers your carbon footprint!

There are likely many other ways to lower our carbon footprints. If we all do our part, using some of the above ideas, maybe we can make a dent in reversing the climate crisis! If you have a good idea, please contact the Environmental Action Team

Siding With Love



Columbus Pride Festival September 30, 2023, 1-7pm
Millrace Park Columbus, IN 47201

Columbus Pride Festival



By Sondra Bolte

Maybe you are horrified and outraged by Indiana's efforts to harm LGBTQ, especially Transgender youth. If you don't know, there were 27 anti-LGBTQI bills in congress this year. Five of the bills passed and went into effect on July 1st.

- 1) Prohibiting bans on harmful conversion therapy - intended to "make" gay people straight; (SB350)
- 2) Banning books from School Libraries which have LGBT themes making Librarians face prison for sharing these books (HB1447)
- 3) Schools cannot offer human sexuality instruction thru 3rd grade (wasn't taught anyway) but includes school personnel must notified parents if students request to be called by a different name or pronoun, outing trans youth (HB1608)
- 4) Banning Gender Affirming surgery in prisons (there has only been 1 case ever) (HB1569)
- 5) Prohibiting Transgender health care for children younger than 18...especially problematic for puberty blockers which help the child not develop sexually until later when they are older and can make more permanent decisions ---and children who have been taking hormone therapy and are forced to quit, which is harmful to the child. (SB480)

If you are looking for ways to do something positive for LGBTQI people in our community, sign up to help UUCCI host our booth at the Columbus Pride Festival at Mill Race Park on September 30, 2023, 1-7pm.

Maybe you want to help plan the booth, or set up/tear down the booth, represent UUCCI at the booth for a 2 hour shift, or something else.

Please contact Sondra Bolte 812.350.5015 (text preferred as she will be out of the country) for more info or to pledge your support. Siding With Love close to home!

**Stop by the UUCCI
booth to learn more!**

UUCCI PROGRAMS

SEPTEMBER 2023

Circle of Song

Thursday, September 7 at 7 pm

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

Water Communion

Sunday, September 10 at 10 am

Water Communion is a treasured time to gather together including our children and youth and we have thoughtfully designed the service with them in mind. We welcome and encourage them to sing along, dance or move their bodies as inspired by the music and to share with us exploring this ritual.

We will also be collecting photos from your summer water memories. Please send them to Adrienne children@uucci.org before Wednesday, September 6th to be included in the service.

*Bring a Picnic and Blanket and stay after service on Sunday, September 10th. All ages are invited to play backyard games, blow bubbles, draw with chalk, and maybe even get a little wet in a surprise sprinkler weather permitting. *You might want to bring a towel. Raising Unitarian Universalists will meet outside during this time as well.*

Raising Unitarian Universalists (RUUs)

Sunday, September 10 at 11:30 am

We will meet in the library for coffee, snacks, conversation and fellowship. Childcare is available!

Spiritual Living Circle

Monday, September 11 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.

Choir Practice

Wednesday, September 13 at 7 pm

During choir practice, our singers will rehearse songs for upcoming services.

Choir Practice

Wednesday, September 20 at 7 pm

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Cabaret Night

Friday, September 22 at 6 pm

Willkommen, Bienvenue, Welcome, to Cabaret at UUCCI! This will be a fun evening for all ages, including a pitch-in dinner and live entertainment. Please bring simple foods to share, such as snacks or finger foods. Pitch-in supper begins at 6:00. Kids can play outdoors after eating. The program begins at 7:00, featuring our own local talent: Lesley Reuter, Gary Woodworth, local poet Matthew Jackson, and James Thur.

Building & Grounds Team Meeting

Wednesday, September 27 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

Red Tent Women's Circle

Saturday, September 2 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 hosted by Heather Barnard who will share discussions and activities to help women explore and embrace their power!

Please bring a side dish to share as well as some comfy clothes.

For questions, please contact Brittany Phillips at admin@gmail.com or Heather Barnard at Heather.r.barnard@gmail.com

Group Meditation & Dharma Talk

Sunday, September 17 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

Group Meditation & Dharma Talk

Sunday, September 3 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, September 13 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