NOVEMBER 2023 ISSUE

UUCCI NEWSLETTER

LOOKING FORWARD WITH HOPE



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Upcoming Sunday Services

03

Hope and Gratitude

Splinters From The Board

05

by Linda Iwamuro

Letter From The Minister

06

Pledge! In the Name of Love

Music at UUCCI

10 Music For The Soul by Louise Hillery

Youth & Families

11 Surprises From Adrienne Summerlot

UUCCI Events

14 How to Find "Your People"

Interfaith Events

16

Celebrate Together



SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday Mornings at 10 am

Nov 5 The Banshees of Columbine: Responding to the Wailing of the World

With Rev. Nic Cable & Skye Nicholson

Every year at UUCCI's Annual Meeting, we acknowledge our shared ministry and congregational life together. Beyond approving a budget, electing board members, and acknowledging the achievements of the past year, we are in essence recommitting to upholding our values, embodying our purpose, and moving forward in love for another year. This year, the pain of the world is loud, clear, and constant. Rev. Nic will explore why our ministry and community are so desperately needed by helping us listen, acknowledge, and take guidance from the banshees who walk among us.

NOV 12 Can Hydra Ever Be Slain? Unleashing Generosity in the Face of Uncertainty, Fear, and Death

With Rev. Nic Cable & Cynthia Scott

The "work to overcome injustice in all its forms" is like Hercules trying to defeat the many-headed Hydra; as soon as you attack one injustice, three more injustices emerge beside it. It can be demoralizing and leave one feeling hopeless. Rev. Nic ends his six-part sermon series calling upon us to unleash the abundant multitudes within our hearts, so that we can grow the resources of our ministry no matter the number of monsters we face.





NOV 19 Circles of Gratitude - All Ages Service!

With Adrienne Summerlot & Lin Montgomery

Giving thanks is a great circular motion: gratitude for the beings and gifts of the earth, gratitude from the beings of the earth for humanity, gratitude from God for humanity — continually circulating yet focused and magnified in community celebrations.



NOV 26 Em-Bracing (for) the Holiday Season

Linda Iwamuro November 2023

SPLINTERS

FROM THE BOARD

As we begin to look to the new year, I'm sure you can feel the pace of this faith community picking up. October gave us so many opportunities to learn new things, have fun and be in community together.

Mark your calendars to attend the Annual Congregational Meeting on November 5. Be ready to affirm the talented slate of candidates who are ready for a three-year commitment to serve your congregation.

Study the budget the Board has approved for the 2024 fiscal year that starts January 1. What are the values you hold close that are represented here within this community? As a congregation, we hope you will be ready to approve the budget.

Together, we consider how to translate that which is important to us, to how we can financially support this faith community. We have been fortunate to meet our pledge goals in the past few years and are hopeful we can continue.

On December 2, we host our annual Holiday Market. While it is a fundraising event for UUCCI, we find the time to enjoy the spirit of the season, find unique gifts for giving, including the Every Child signature, Emporium, support partner non-profits and be nourished with good food and conversation. Please look for upcoming notices on how you can contribute your skills and energy to a delightful day. We everyone's participation need continue the success of this wider community event that all look forward to.

> Linda Iwamuro, Board President

PLEDGE! IN THE NAME OF LOVE 2024 UUCCI PLEDGE DRIVE

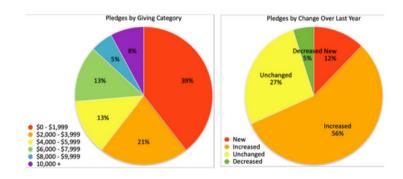
UUCCI is a community of hope and courage, where we celebrate love and work for justice. In 2024, your Board of Trustees invites the entire congregation to pledge in the name of love. Our Values, Mission, and Ends, envision a world that places love over hate, bridges over walls, and courage over fear. We have weathered the storms of the pandemic, we have taken the necessary sabbatical time to rest and consider what is next, and we are moving into a new chapter of our lives together in nurturing a loving and inclusive, liberal religious community in south central Indiana.

November is the time to remember who we are and who we are becoming. We lift up the values we hold, the purpose of our community, the direction we are headed, and the vision of that future we will build together. We elect new leaders to the board, we celebrate another year of ministry, and we pass a budget that is a symbol of our work not yet finished. Our congregation has work to do and when we all come together in November and pledge in the name of love, we will continue to build on the great shared ministry and rich history this congregation has fostered for over half a century.

Our budget must embody our deepest aspirations and will require us to dig deep and invest not just for 2024, but for the future of our congregation. Beginning next month, the board will guide the congregation in a year-long visioning process to determine what our community will look like in 2030. This pledge drive offers us the

next opportunity to fund and continue to nurture what we are only beginning to imagine together. The board has put together some resources and historical information to support you as you consider how you might support our community financially in 2024.

OVERVIEW OF 2023 PLEDGE DRIVE



The 2023 Pledge Drive's theme was Rooted in Generosity. Thank you again for your financial support and being a part of this community! Above are two pie charts that may give a snapshot into how pledges came in for this past year. The first is based on category or amount per pledge. The second is how those pledges relate, if applicable, to the previous year. Whether you are a first time contributor or have been giving for decades, we hope you will consider where you fall on these charts as you think about your 2024 pledge. You might also ponder these questions, as well:

- How important is it for this type of community to exist in this area and at this time in history?
- How have the last few years impacted your financial capacity to pledge in the name of love?
- How has your pledge amount changed year over year? Increased? Decreased? Unchanged?
- How can we nurture our generosity to meet the longings and potential of our community?

The 2024 Budget Overview is provided here for reference. On the next page, there is a useful tool to help you calculate what pledge amount might be right for your financial situation. As a congregation, we have emerged from the pandemic resilient and steadfast, and although weary at times, this community provides us all with the hope and courage and friendships we NEED to ensure our continued vitality and presence in Indiana.

Proposed 2024 Operating Budget (Overview)

| | 2023 Final | P | 2024 roposed | Budget Changes | | |
|------------------------|---------------|------|-----------------|-------------------|--------|--|
| Personnel | \$ 174,557 | \$ | 181,736 | \$ | 7,179 | |
| Buildings and Grounds | \$ 21,840 | \$ | 27,850 | \$ | 6,010 | |
| Programming | \$ 21,750 | \$ | 24,860 | \$ | 3,110 | |
| Office + Admin | \$ 10,900 | \$ | 13,100 | \$ | 2,200 | |
| Total Operating Budget | \$ 229,047 | \$ | 247,546 | \$ | 18,499 | |
| | | 8 19 | | | | |

In making your decision, consider the four commitment levels below and how they relate to your membership. Consider your UU values in thinking about your income and your financial commitment to the congregation, as expressed in the four levels below. Note that within each commitment level, **the guide is progressive**, with giving levels rising with capacity.

- Supporter: The congregation is a significant part of my spiritual and intellectual life that I want to support. My fair share financial commitment starts at 2% of my income and rises to 6% as my income and capacity rise.
- Sustainer: The congregation is my central community; I am committed to sustaining the programs and ministries of my congregation.
 My fair share financial commitment starts at 3% of my income and rises to 7% as my income and capacity rise.
- Visionary: My commitment is a clear demonstration of the unique importance of this congregation and of my spiritual principles. My
 fair share financial commitment starts at 5% of my income and rises to 9% as my income and capacity rise.
- Transformer: I am deeply committed to the congregation; my contribution provides fuel for transformation and is part of my spiritual
 practices in living out my UU Principles. My fair share financial commitment represents 10% of my income.

The Suggested Fair Share Contribution Guide

| | | Supporter 2-6% of Income | | Sustainer 3-7% of Income | | | Visionary 5-9% of Income | | | Transformer 10% of Income | | |
|-------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|--|-----------------------------|-------------------|--|------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Adjusted Monthly Income | Approx. Adjusted Annual Income | Suggested % of Income | Monthly Pledge | Suggested % of Income | Monthly Pledge | | Suggested % of Income | Monthly Pledge | | Suggested % of Income | Monthly Pledge | |
| \$1,000 | \$12,000 | 2% | \$20 | 3% | \$30 | | 5% | \$50 | | 10% | \$100 | |
| \$1,500 | \$18,000 | 2% | \$30 | 3% | \$45 | | 5% | \$75 | | 10% | \$150 | |
| \$2,000 | \$25,000 | 2% | \$40 | 3% | \$60 | | 5% | \$100 | | 10% | \$200 | |
| \$3,000 | \$36,000 | 2% | \$60 | 3% | \$90 | | 5% | \$150 | | 10% | \$300 | |
| \$4,000 | \$50,000 | 3% | \$120 | 4% | \$160 | | 5% | \$200 | | 10% | \$400 | |
| \$6,500 | \$80,000 | 3% | \$195 | 4% | \$260 | | 6% | \$390 | | 10% | \$650 | |
| \$8,500 | \$100,000 | 3% | \$255 | 5% | \$425 | | 6% | \$510 | | 10% | \$850 | |
| \$10,000 | \$120,000 | 3% | \$300 | 5% | \$500 | | 6% | \$600 | | 10% | \$1,000 | |
| \$12,500 | \$150,000 | 4% | \$500 | 5% | \$625 | | 6% | \$750 | | 10% | \$1,250 | |
| \$17,000 | \$200,000 | 4% | \$680 | 6% | \$1,020 | | 7% | \$1,190 | | 10% | \$1,700 | |
| \$25,000 | \$300,000 | 5% | \$1,250 | 6% | \$1,500 | | 8% | \$2,000 | | 10% | \$2,500 | |
| \$40,000 | \$500,000 | 6% | \$2,400 | 7% | \$2,800 | | 9% | \$3,600 | | 10% | \$4,000 | |

Wherever you find the right level, revisit it periodically and reassess whether it's still the right level for you or if you are ready to move to a deeper level of support.

Stewardship For Us | www.stewardshipforus.com

If you are unsure what your current pledge or pledge history is, please reach out to treasurer@uucci.org or admin@uucci.org. Additionally, if you need support in determining your pledge amount or you would like to talk with someone about these topics, please reach out to president@uucci.org or minister@uucci.org. May our collective generosity and hope for the future be reflected not only through this pledge drive, but in all the ways we show up and express our care and concern for one another and the world. Thank you for being a part of this community.



IMAGINE 2030

In 2018, the Board of Trustees began our first "Ends" setting process to engage the congregation on what the next five years of our congregational life and ministry would look like. We set those ambitious Ends with the help of dozens of members and friends of the congregation engaging in the process. This resulted in the Ends being adopted by the congregation in February of 2019. Our eight ends (see page 5) are intended to guide us in where we point our time, energy, programs, and financial resources in the years that followed. No one would have guessed that a pandemic would upend about three years since then. Yet, we continued to try to the best of our ability as minister, board, staff, and lay leaders to remain mindful of where we said we wanted to go wanted to go as a congregation. After shifting our fiscal year to the calendar year, we extended and set the expiration date for these Ends an additional year to 12/31/2024. The Board knew then what we know now: in five years the world will have changed, we will have changed, and thus how we articulate our ends and plan our journey will surely change, as well. Therefore, just as the Board developed in the fall of 2018 a process for developing five year Ends, the board met in September of 2023 to prepare such a road for our renewal of and strategy for our journey before us.

The Board of Trustees invites all members and friends of UUCCI to attend one of two visioning sessions in December (3rd or 10th after service) to help shape our direction, goals, and strategy as a congregation. The 90-minute sessions will gather critical insight about our future that will shape a new articulation of five-year Ends, as well as a Strategic Plan of measurable goals to be voted on by the congregation at the November 2024 Annual Meeting to take effect January 1, 2025. To guide this process, the Board of Trustees developed a powerful question for us to consider through three lenses— story, wishes, and art.

The Powerful Question:

How might we ensure our continued resilience and creativity so that we can inspire and nurture a more loving and courageous community?

As a community of hope and courage, where we celebrate love and work for justice, we will be asked to:

Share a Story

...of a time you experienced UUCCI as a resilient, creative, loving, and/or courageous community.

Make Three Wishes

...to help ensure UUCCI's continued resilience and creativity what would they be?

Imagine 2030

...to visually depict what is happening at UUCCI at the end of this decade.



NEXT STEPS IN 2024

Unlike the Ends Setting Process of 2018-2019, we will take twice the time to not only renew the Ends, but to develop an accompanying strategic plan which we did not have for our first and current Ends. Here's how the Board will guide us through the coming year:

January 2024 — February 2024

The Board of Trustees will take all of our Stories, Wishes, and Art and distill the essence from them into some number of Ends.

March 2024

These Ends will be presented to the congregation at a Board Town Hall.

April 2024 — August 2024

Following that presentation, the Board of Trustees will begin to develop a strategic plan that would create measurable goals under each of the Ends that could be achieved or furthered over the next five years.

September 2024

The Proposed Ends and Draft Strategic Plan will be shared with the congregation for feedback.

October 2024

The Board will refine the Strategic Plan and vote to add it to the Annual Meeting Agenda.

November 2024

The congregation will vote on whether to approve Imagine 2030.

January 1, 2025

If approved, Imagine 2030 takes effect and guides our path forward through December 31, 2029.

Music at UUCCI November 2023

Music for the Soul

By Louise Hillery, Lead Pianist and Music Coordinator

The Music department has been busy. The choir has just finished recording 18 hymns with videographer Jeff Jones. Combined with our recordings that we started making during the Covid pandemic, we now have videos or audios of 84 of UUCCI's most frequently used hymns.

You have seen links to these recordings each week in the Friday Reminder under the heading "Hymn Preview." I hope you have had time to click on the links and listen to each week's hymns, so they will be familiar when it comes time to sing. The singers worked hard to make these recordings for you.

The Music FUNdamentals class of 7 students is half-way through the 7 - 8 week course on learning to read music. They are learning fast, and you may see some of them trying new musical adventures when they finish the class. If you want to be in the class the next time it's offered, talk to Louise.

If you like to sing, her are some opportunities for you right now:

- On the 1 st Thursday of every month, we gather with Sondra Bolte to sing songs by request. No audience: everyone participates. You can also bring along a guitar or whatever instrument you prefer. It's just for fun.
- On the 2 nd and 3 rd Wednesday of each month, the choir gathers to rehearse a special song they will sing in the morning service of the 4 th Sunday.
- For basement singers and musicians or closet poets, if you would like to share your talent with an audience, we will have another Fourth Friday Fun Night on January 26.
 In September our theme was Cabaret. In January, it will be more of a 60s Coffee House /Beatnik / Hippie vibe. Start thinking about what talents you can share.

For more information about any of these opportunities, contact Louise at music.uucci.org.



Children and Youth Ministry at UUCCI

This year at UUCCI we will be offering the following opportunities for children and youth to engage in lifespan learning on Sunday mornings during service:



Seedling and Sprouts (infants-preschool)

meet every Sunday in the Earth Room with our caregivers to meet new friends, share stories, sing, and play!



Roots and Wings

Our child centered space provides invitations for child directed exploration that allows both individual and collaborative play. Special guests will visit to teach about special topics or world religions.

) and a fair of the contract o



Our new studio space will provide kids an opportunity to foster their creativity with different mediums, learn how to use artistic tools, and time to experiment and tinker. Special guests will visit to share their passions and talents with the kids.

UUth Group (5th grade + on the next page!



One of our goals here at UUCCI is to foster intergenerational connections between adults and our children and youth. We invite you to consider how you might deepen your own spiritual journey by serving in our Children and Youth Ministry program. Whether you are able to help regularly, visit to share a special passion, or lend a hand behind the scenes, we value the opportunity to find a way for you to be involved.

Questions?

Contact Adrienne Summerlot Children's Ministry Coordinator children@uucci.org



NOVEMBER NEWS FOR FAMILIES



Sunday, November 12th 11:30am- 12:30pm Childcare Provided





Trained Our Whole Lives (OWL) Sexuality Educators will share resources to use at home as well as facilitate conversations about Parents as Sexuality Educators.

Circles of Gratitude Sunday, November 19th- All Ages Service

Giving thanks is a great circular motion: gratitude for the beings and gifts of the earth, gratitude from the beings of the earth for humanity, gratitude from God for humanity — continually circulating yet focused and magnified in community celebrations.

Bring a dish to share after service!





Parent Night Out Saturday, November 25th from 6-8pm

We know this is a busy time of year for parents and wish to support you by offering some time for you to take care of yourselves, run errands, have a date night, etc.

Space Limited, Register by November 17th <u>Click Here to Register</u> or contact children@uucci.org



November is the beginning of the fall holiday season for many Americans and UU's alike. It is a time when we focus on values that apply to everybody; togetherness, generosity and gratitude. It can start with Thanksgiving.

President George Washington issued a proclamation naming Thursday, November 26, 1789 as a "Day of Publick Thanksgivin" - the first time Thanksgiving was celebrated under the new Constitution. What stories have you been told? Do they convey anything about what has occurred in the 400 years since the invasion of Wampanoag territory in Massachusetts?

Although many protest the false stories and romanticizing of the "first Thanksgiving" our UUA is instead issuing a challenge to its members. The Action of Immediate Witness (AIW) calls fo

congregations and their members to research, identify and acknowledge the Indigenous peoples who historically and/or currently relate to the land occupied by congregations.

As part of the Sabbatical this past spring, we were asked to explore our roots and ancestors. The UUA established the Action of Immediate Witness (AIW) at the General Assembly 2020 calling for congregations to "Research, identify and acknowledge the Indigenous peoples historically and/or

currently connected with the land occupied by congregations and find ways to act in solidarity with or even partner with those Indigenous peoples. A small group of UUCCI members formed a task force to do the research and to acknowledge and honor those Indigenous peoples who had called 7850 W Goeller Blvd a part of their ancestral lands. What was discovered was a history of the Myaamiaki (Miami), Lenape (Delaware), Bodwewadmik (Potawatomi) and Saawanwa (Shawnee) in this area who were forcibly removed and relocated onto Indian lands further west.

What can you do to be part of this effort? UUA and the UUCCI task force encourage members to read the AIW (https://www.uua.org/action/statements/addre ss-400-years-white-supremacist-colonalism). Please do this in the weeks leading up to the Harvest the Power

Virtual Summit for Justice and Decolonization on November 19-22 nd . We further challenge you to tune in to the livestream broadcast.

Why not take this opportunity to share with family members and particularly the children, the history of colonization in America and the treatment of the Indigenous peoples. Do celebrate your togetherness and enjoy the feast of many foods that have been contributed by the natives with gratitude and generosity.

UUCCI PROGRAMS

NOVEMBER 2023

Pastoral Care Team Meeting Wednesday, November 1 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.

Music FUNdamentals Class Wednesday, November 1 from 6-7 pm

This is a 7-week course in the basics of reading music will teach you to read rhythms, understand musical terms and markings, and make a good guess at how a tune goes when you see it on the page. For more info, contact Louise Hillery music@uucci.org

* This class is full and is not accepting new guests at this time

Circle of Song

Thursday, November 2 at 7 pm

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

Cooking Across Cultures Friday, November 3 at 6 pm

Please join Esme and Francisco Vazquez for our next Cooking Across Cultures featuring Mexican food. They will be teaching us how to make tamales. A free will donation will be collected to defray costs. Contact Kathleen Leason, kmleason@gmail.com, to RSVP as space is limited.

Annual Meeting

Sunday, November 5 at 11:30 am

Your Board has been hard at work to keep our congregation and staff on track. The Annual Meeting is a great time to catch up and have a say in how to move forward into 2023. We hope that our Annual Meeting will be a time for reflection, gratitude, and hope for the future.

UUCCI Men's Lunch Tuesday, November 7 at 12:00 pm

The menu is as follows: Butternut Squash Bisque, Apple Cider Brined Chicken with potato-fennel au gratin and green beans, Pumpkin spice latte cake, coffee or tea. Cost is \$15. The restaurant is located at the south east corner of the North HS campus which is at 25th and Maple St. Here are the parking instructions from the restaurant staff: "Parking is located in the strip of parking facing Maple Street. The signs say C4 but it is also the Courtyard quest parking. There are 2 strips, 1 to the left and 1 to the right when you pull into the parking lot off of Maple Street.". To make your reservation or to ask questions email Jim Farless at jfarless@comcast.net or call 812-3500-1135. I hope you can join us for good food and fellowship.

Music FUNdamentals Class Wednesday, November 1 from 6-7 pm

This is a 7-week course in the basics of reading music will teach you to read rhythms, understand musical terms and markings, and make a good guess at how a tune goes when you see it on the page. For more info, contact Louise Hillery music@uucci.org

* This class is full and is not accepting new guests at this time

UUCCI PROGRAMS

NOVEMBER 2023

Choir Practice

Wednesday, November 8 at 7 pm
All are welcome to join the UUCCI choir!
During choir practice, our singers will

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

Raising Unitarian Universalists Sunday, November 12 at 11:30 am Childcare Provided

Trained Our Whole Lives (OWL) Sexuality Educators will share resources to use at home as well as facilitate conversations about Parents as Sexuality Educators.

Spiritual Living Circle Monday, November 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.

Choir Practice

Wednesday, November 15 at 7 pm

All are welcome to join the UUCCI choir! During choir practice, our singers will rehearse songs for upcoming services.

Women's Chalice Circle Thursday, November 16 at 10 am

Chalice Circles are facilitated, small group gatherings, which meet once a month at UUCCI. The gatherings foster conversation on Monthly Themes and build community in a small setting. New for this year is an all woman's Chalice Circle. Please contact Sharon Mangas for more info at docmangas@comcast.net

Building & Grounds Team Meeting Wednesday, November 22 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 or Jon Fischer at farmbrewer@gmail.com

Hearts and Hands Craft Circle Saturday, November 16 at 6:30pm

Are you a knitter or crocheter? Do you enjoy another (portable) craft? Would you like to learn a new craft? If you answered yes to any of the above questions, we would love to see you at the Hearts & Hands Crafting Circle! This will be a monthly meeting for all of us crafty types to get together and focus on the hobbies we love. Bring a snack to share and your current project or come learn something new. There will also be options for charitable group projects.

Chalice Circle

Thursday, November 30 at 5:30 pm

Chalice Circles are facilitated, small group gatherings, which meet once a month at UUCCI. The gatherings foster conversation on Monthly Themes and build community in a small setting. Please contact Mark Kevitt for more info at markkevitt@comcast.net

COLUMBUS INTERFAITH

EVENTS AT UUCCI INTERFAITH CAMPUS



Diwali Fest Sunday, November 5th at 10am Sri Ganesh Mandir

Our friends and neighbors at Sri Ganesh Mandir have invited us to join them to celebrate Diwali this year at the temple. Children and Youth from UUCCI will NOT attend worship but meet Adrienne promptly at 10am in Fellowship Hall. We will return back to UUCCI around 11:15am. Please help our hosts know how many kids to expect by scaning the QR code to register or fill in this **Google Form**

Red Tent Women's Circle: Practical Magic Party Friday, November 10 at 5 pm Tree of Knowledge Indiana

Each month, we gather to heal and celebrate each other. Join us for a special Red Tent, with non-alcoholic margaritas, tarot and palm readings, games, and snacks. We will be creating a HUGE communal altar, so bring any decorations that you want to add, as well as a dish to share and cards if you would like to swap tarot readings. For questions, please contact Brittany Phillips at admin@gmail.com

Group Meditation & Dharma Talk Sunday, November 12 & 26 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

Hearts and Hands Craft Circle Saturday, November 16 at 6:30pm

Are you a knitter or crocheter? Do you enjoy another (portable) craft? Would you like to learn a new craft? If you answered yes to any of the above questions, we would love to see you at the Hearts & Hands Crafting Circle! This will be a monthly meeting for all of us crafty types to get together and focus on the hobbies we love. Bring a snack to share and your current project or come learn something new. There will also be options for charitable group projects.