

M A Y 2 0 2 4 I S S U E

UUCCI NEWSLETTER

B U I L D I N G T O G E T H E R



**VOTE FORWARD
LETTER WRITING ACTION**

**Annual
Yard
Sale**

A BUSY YEAR OF MUSIC
BY LOUISE HILLERY

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SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday Mornings at 10 am

MAY 5 *Why Do We Light a Chalice? And Other Things We've Asked Ourselves*

With Rev. Nic Cable & Lesley Reuter

MAY 12 *Black Mother Memories: 50 Years of the Combahee River Collective*

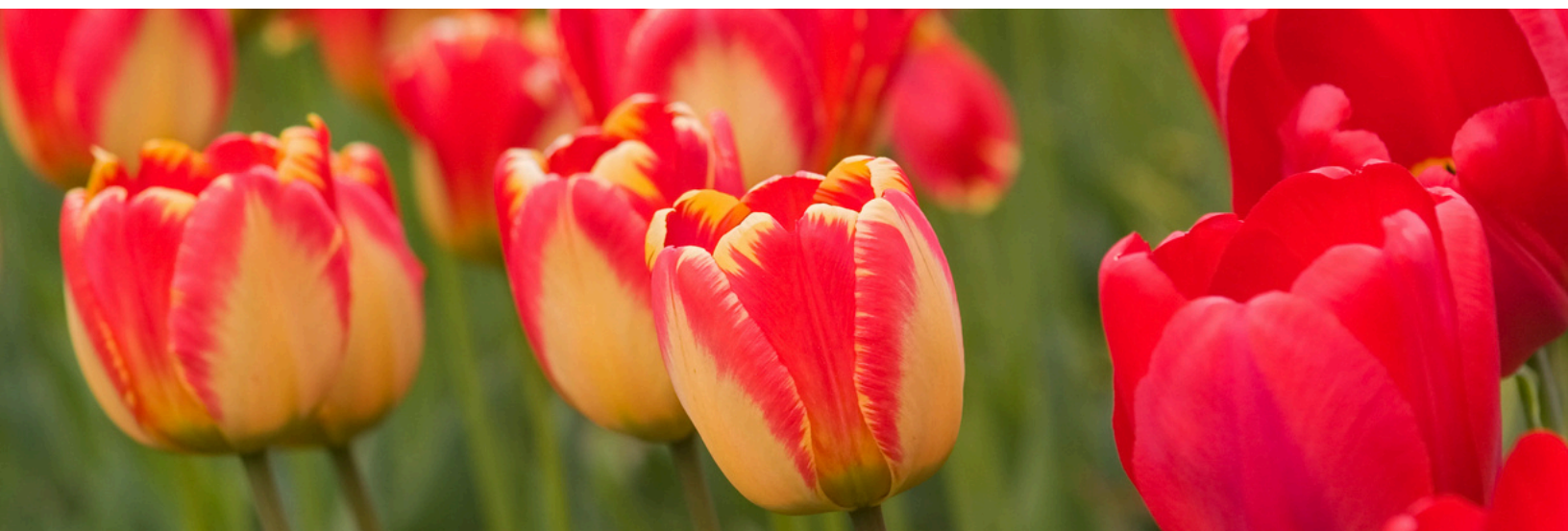
With Rev. Nic Cable & Chris Kevitt

MAY 19 *School's Out for Summer... Class is Now in Session (FF 1)*

With Rev. Nic Cable & Sondra Bolte

MAY 26 *Special Service with Guest Speaker Rev. Dennis McCarty*

With Rev. Dennis McCarty



LETTER FROM THE MINISTER

DEAR ONES,

Around this time of year in the life of our congregation, it is natural to reflect on the past year. Not the calendar year, but what we call the congregational year. This way of marking the year runs aligned for the most part with the academic school year and is used commonly in a lot of western religious traditions. As we reflect on the past year, I am thinking about all of the learning and growing and acting we have been engaged with all while grounded in love and focused on justice. And as you explore or reflect on the past year, I wonder what highlights you might identify. Likewise, you might begin to think of some of the challenges and hard learnings or experiences you have had this past year. I wonder how UUCCI has been or could be more supportive in your learning, growing, and acting in the world.

One of the areas I am trying to grow in is trying to fully accept the learning from these life transitional moments and thresholds. So for example, I want to believe that I can and do grow year over year, learning and pulling forward into my next year those gifts that serve my commitments to love and liberation. However, just like in the case of New Year's Resolutions, I know I and perhaps you have done this too, have fallen into the trap of skating along the surface of superficiality and half-hearted reflections and projections. I want to practice going deeper in both the looking back and moving forward parts of this iterative gift in life.

How might we do this? I am reminded of the Akan symbolism of Sankofa found in Ghana, "Se wo were fi na wosankofa a yenkyi," which translates as: "It is not wrong to go back for that which you have forgotten." Sankofa is rooted in various ancient and modern communities of the African diaspora. It encourages remembering and carrying forth what has been forgotten, the seeds of truth that can shape a strong future. As a white, cisgender, heterosexual male with other privileged markers of my social location, I understand that I will never fully understand the meaning and power of this teaching. I recognize how much my ancestry has participated in the transgenerational, traumatic violence and forced forgetting. And I work every day to try and move forward in different ways, remembering that I have a responsibility to spread love, healing, compassion, and justice to all. We might ask, what have we forgotten that must be remembered and carried forth into the days ahead? I hope that as you reflect and remember what you once knew bone deep you come to find vision, purpose, and passion for living more full and compassionate lives at UUCCI and wherever your journeys lead.

With Gratitude,



REV. NIC CABLE

UUCCI Minister

SPLINTERS

FROM THE BOARD

UUCCI is applying for a grant through the Nonprofit Security Grant Program offered by the Indiana Dept. of Homeland Security. This grant can provide up to \$150,000 to correct documented security vulnerabilities. By the end of April, a Columbus Police officer will have conducted a security assessment of our building and grounds. This assessment will give us specific recommendations for ways to improve our safety here at UUCCI that we will use in our grant proposal which is due at the end of May. Many thanks to Cynthia Scott, Nicole Wiltrout, Rev. Nic and others who are working on this grant.

The UUA General Assembly is June 20-23 and is fully remote this year, alternating with in person meetings every other year. Cynthia Scott, current Vice President on the Board, will be presenting for this year's General Assembly. The presentation is a pre-recorded on-demand program titled: Our Interfaith Campus: A Dream That Came True. This program will share the story of how UUCCI came to share physical space with other faith groups and how we have facilitated community wide interfaith partnerships. Thanks to Cynthia for coming up with this idea, doing the work to put it together and all those who are helping her collect the information about our interfaith campus journey.

Work continues on the Strategic Objectives for 2025-2029. Fortunately, we started thinking about this early (last August) because this process takes a lot of time and deep thought and consideration. Luckily, we have Rev. Nic as our guide and leader through the process. We're making good progress and will have more to share in the coming months.

We have a lot to look forward to this summer at UUCCI. When our family first joined in 1992, the church (then called a fellowship) shut down for the entire summer. We've come a long way since then with services every Sunday, Peace Camp, committee work, social events and other programs and activities the whole summer long. Happy 57th birthday (May 1st) to UUCCI!

Carol Kostrzewsky
President, Board of Trustees

MUSIC AT UUCCI



A Busy Year of Music

By Louise Hillery

As a former teacher, I feel some deep instinct to sum things up as the month of May arrives. So here's what's on my mind.

- Music FUNdamentals class has been meeting weekly to develop music reading skills. Walt Able, Shawna Banks, Jennifer Schall, Summer Hall, and Jon Fischer are stretching their brains to penetrate the mysteries of written music.
- In the fall, 7 additional students earned Music FUNdamentals diplomas: Jeff Jones, Adam Reuter, Lesley Reuter, Jennifer Schall, Cynthia Scott, Heather Barnard, and Sondra Bolte, giving us an amazing total of 12 newly literate musicians!
- Our band performed in December, February, March, and April. Chris Kevitt, Emma Dominguez, Stephen Barnard, Missy Dominguez, Connie Marbach, and myself are the founding members. Other players of band or orchestra instruments are welcome.
- Twenty performers have provided a special Friday Music Nights with top-notch entertainment, while guests have provided a bountiful pitch-in meal.
- A newly formed Music Advisory Team will meet quarterly to discuss directions for the music program. Members are Chris Kevitt, Gary Woodworth, Sondra Bolte, and Connie Marbach.
- The choir is preparing a special service for June, with piano accompanist Dean Schertz – a full-length song cycle for Flower Sunday, entitled Beauty Calls Us Together.
- Rev. Nic has challenged me to create a series of sessions on the scope and background of our Unitarian Universalist hymnody, and I'm getting excited about the possibilities. Stay tuned for next fall.

Music is a fun and rewarding way to get more involved in your congregation. If you have musical interests, please make them known. We'll help you find a way to join with others in the fun and inspiration of music.

Contact Louise at
music@uucci.org.

MAY

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY AT UUCCI

Sunday Programming 10:15-11:15am PreK- 4th Grade

Each Sunday, our children and youths are invited to join Adrienne Summerlot (our Children's Ministry Coordinator), our wonderful childcare staff, and amazing volunteers in exploring their connection to community and the world around them.

If you have questions or would like to volunteer to help with childrens programming on Sundays, please reach out to Adrienne at children@uucci.org

UUth Group for 5th Grade +

Join us for fun, games, and fellowship in the Youth Room!



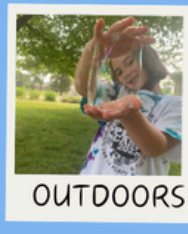
May 5th:

Join Hattie & Bekki in the youth room- we will be learning about different parts of a UU service and why we do we things a certain way during services

INTERFAITH PEACE CAMP

JUNE 10-14 FOR AGES 5- 12

REGISTER TODAY AT
[BIT.LY/2024PEACECAMP](https://bit.ly/2024PEACECAMP)



OPTIONAL FAMILY CAMPOUT JUNE 14TH-15TH

We are thrilled to offer a Counselor in Training Program for our Interfaith Peace Camp. Youth who will be 13-17 years old at the time of camp are encouraged to apply to be Counselors in Training. This is an opportunity to build your leadership skills, earn hours you may need for community volunteering, and share your passions and talents with children. [Register to be a Counselor in Training!](#)

Volunteer for Interfaith Peace Camp June 10th-14th 9am-4pm

Last June, we welcomed the return of Peace Camp with 50 kids from our Interfaith Columbus partners spending the week together focused on peace, learning together, and building community.

**Do you have fond memories of camp?
Do you have a skill or passion to share?**

We need **MANY** helping hands to help make camp possible.

1 hour, 1 day, or the entire week.

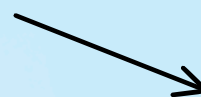
We will help you find the best opportunity to volunteer, including behind the scenes!

We invite you to join us for opportunities to dance, sing, play, laugh, and connect with children in our community!

VOLUNTEER HERE OR SCAN HERE



bit.ly/VolunteerPeaceCamp



REMEMBER: CHECK FOR TICKS!

**They're smaller
than you think**



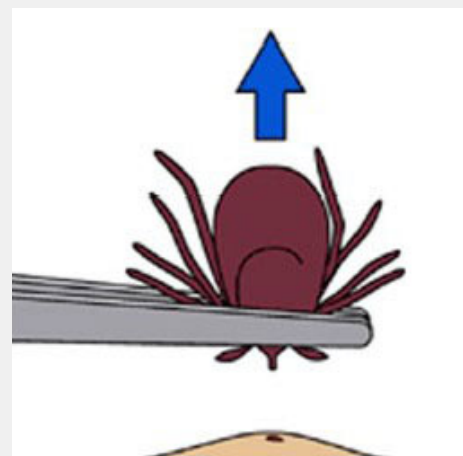
How to remove a tick

1. Use clean, fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible.
2. Pull upward with steady, even pressure. Don't twist or jerk the tick; this can cause the mouth-parts to break off and remain in the skin. If this happens, remove the mouth-parts with tweezers. If you cannot remove the mouth easily with tweezers, leave it alone and let the skin heal.
3. After removing the tick, thoroughly clean the bite area and your hands with rubbing alcohol or soap and water.
4. Never crush a tick with your fingers. Dispose of a live tick by
 - Putting it in alcohol,
 - Placing it in a sealed bag/container,
 - Wrapping it tightly in tape, or
 - Flushing it down the toilet.

Follow-up

If you develop a rash or fever within several weeks of removing a tick, see your doctor:

- Tell the doctor about your recent tick bite,
- When the bite occurred, and
- Where you most likely acquired the tick.



RACIAL JUSTICE TEAM

VOTE FORWARD LETTER WRITING ACTION

The Courageous Action Council is promoting the Vote Forward campaign as a way to address one of the Congregation's top concerns—Democracy At Stake.

Some background on Vote Forward:

Vote Forward began in 2017 as an experiment conducted by Scott Forman in Alabama, where he sent 1,000 letters to encourage voters in the special U.S. Senate election. Encouraged by the success of that test, Scott and a small group of friends and colleagues built the first version of this platform to allow volunteers to take easy and effective action in future elections.

From the very beginning, Vote Forward has developed and refined their letter-writing tactic by conducting rigorous research, principally randomized controlled trials (RCTs). Vote Forward has tested the effectiveness of its letters on voter turnout more than 20 times over the past six years and measured a positive impact nearly every time. You can find more details at voteforward.com.

Locally, Kathleen Leason is organizing volunteers to participate in this important work. The details:

Want To Learn More?

Contact Kathleen Leason
kmleason@gmail.com.

Here's how it works:

1. We print off a form letter (groups of 20) and distribute them to you.
2. You complete the letter by writing the recipient's first name, one or two powerful motivating non partisan sentences on why you vote.
3. You provide an addressed and stamped envelope stuffed and sealed and return to me by October 1, 2024.
4. We mail the letters in the designated time frame right before the November election.
5. If you can't write letters but still want to help, I am accepting cash donations for stamps. I have several people willing to write letters that don't have the budget for stamps.

While it is impossible to know how effective this will be, VOTE FORWARD remains convinced this action made a difference in previous elections.

**If interested please email Kathleen at: kmleason@gmail.com.
Thanks in advance for your help with this important work!**

Reimagine Together: From an Extractive Age to a New Era



UU Climate Justice Revival | September 28-29, 2024

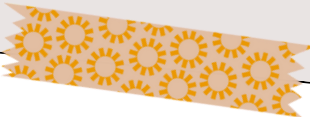
The UU Climate Revival, "Reimagine Together: From an Extractive Age to a New Era," is sweeping the nation with collective worship, creative learning, new frameworks at the intersection of climate and justice, and the chance to weave together the threads that have always linked our deepest commitments. On September 28 and 29, UUCI will gather with other Unitarian Universalists will gather to dig into the connections between social justice, racial justice, and environmental ministry. Congregations will receive training and materials to hold facilitated dialogues, dynamic worship, religious education, and advocacy, all designed to transform our congregations through climate justice.

This revival is meant to be an opportunity for congregations to collaborate towards a healthier, flourishing climate future. . The skills learned in this revival can be channeled towards collective action in service of climate justice and collaboration across congregations to listen, learn, lovingly live into a "revived" set of principles we can all be using to realize justice locally, nationally, and globally.

Dick Boyce
Chairman -Environmental Action Team

UUCCI Yard Sale

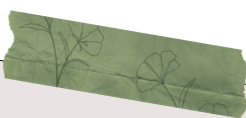
Friday, May 31 to Saturday, June 1




By now, you have amassed an impressive pile of items for the UUCCI Yard Sale on May 31-Jun 1. Keep up the good work this month! It's now time to volunteer for setting up, working, and closing up the two day sale. Please register for the time slots for when you are able to lend a helping hand at the [link here](#)

The proceeds from this sale go toward supporting UUCCI's operating costs. Our fundraisers are key to providing the resources for achieving our Mission to be a community of hope and courage, where we celebrate love and work for justice.

Thanks,
Linda



When donating special items, you can pick up a "Special Handling Item" sheet to provide information for special items



**UUCCI Yard Sale
Special Handling Item**

Please fill out, checking all boxes that apply.
Submit to Yard Sale Team Member.

Name _____

Contact Phone Number _____

This item has significant value and should be managed by the Yard Sale Team at the Cashier's Table.

This item should be sold with a FIRM PRICE, set at value \$ _____.

This item should be returned to donor if not sold by the end of the sale. I agree to pick up this item at 4:00 PM, Saturday (date) _____.

Item: _____

Donor: _____

Sale Team: _____

UUCCI will do their best to meet the requirements requested but cannot guarantee 100% compliance.

Word Scramble

Unscramble these letter groups, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

REAPID					
NRGDI					
SOCTU					
INN FAT					

Now arrange the circled letters to form the answer* suggested by the cartoon.



UUs and friends will laugh and shout in friendly rivalry during their fun(d) _____.

This exciting event is coming back after vacation trips are done, after Labor Day, and after school starts. Save this Saturday **Auction** date on your calendar:

September 14, 2024.

Information about donating and volunteering will come in late June or early July. Be on the lookout. We need you! We need everybody to participate!

*Scramble Answers: Diaper, Grind, Scout, Infant → **Raising Auction.**

STRANGE SIGHTINGS IN OUR BACKYARD

Of course we all prepared for the Total Solar Eclipse predicted for April 8, 2024. But wherever you watched it, did you see anything like these viewing contraptions? Our creative RE director Adrienne Summerlot found a way to make a safer, more shielded viewing device than the approved safety glasses alone. We still used the standard square-shaped lenses, but she encouraged us to attach them to a paper plate. And, not only that, but helped us decorate those paper plates! The plates protected us from damage to our eyes and from sunburn.



Cynthia Scott made souvenir event envelopes to commemorate the occasion. It is postmarked with the round-dater plug from the U.S. post office in downtown Columbus. There are plenty left over if anyone wants one.



The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

IN COLLABORATION WITH



PRESENTS AN

INTERFAITH DAY OF PRAYER EVENT

Thursday, May 2, 2024
6:00 - 7:00PM

Southside Elementary School Auditorium
1320 W. 200 S. Columbus, IN

THIS IS A FREE EVENT



PRAYERS FOR THE NATION AND THE WORLD WILL
BE OFFERED BY REPRESENTATIVES FROM:

OPEN MIND ZEN INDIANA (BUDDHIST)

ST. BARTHOLOMEW CATHOLIC CHURCH

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

SRI GANESH MANDIR (HINDU)

ISLAMIC SOCIETY OF COLUMBUS

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

TREE OF KNOWLEDGE COMMUNITY COVEN

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF COLUMBUS, IN

MUSIC PROVIDED BY THE COLUMBUS INTERFAITH CHOIR

UUCCI PROGRAMS

MAY 2024

Pastoral Care Team Meeting

Wednesday, May 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.

Band Practice

Wednesday, May 1 at 7 pm

To join, contact Louise at music@uucci.org

May Day Celebration

Wednesday, May 1 at 6 pm

Join us for a May Day Celebration hosted by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbus, IN and the Tree of Knowledge Coven. Wear your spring finery! Bring one of your favorite NUT FREE/ SESAME FREE dishes to share for our Pitch In Picnic. We will make tussie mussies, dance, and enjoy good company. You are welcome to bring lawn chairs and picnic blankets as well. In the event of inclement weather, we will move the celebration inside. Newcomers and Visitors of All Ages are especially welcome to join us

Sunday Services Meeting

Friday, May 3 at 10:30 am

The Sunday Service Team organizes meaningful services for our congregation each week.

Cooking Across Cultures

Friday, May 3 at 6 pm

Featuring Moroccan and Indian Spices
Ever wonder what Ras el Hanout is? What exactly is curry? Fatiha Anouar (Morocco) and Gayatri Adi (India) will cohost this session featuring spice mixes from their home countries. Each will show us how the spice mix is made and make a dish using that spice. Gayatri's dish will be vegetarian. Space is limited so please reserve your spot with Kathleen Leason at kmleason@gmail.com.

Peace Camp Planning Meeting

Tuesday, May 7 at 11 am

Get in on the fun, and join our interfaith partners in planning this years Peace Camp! All are welcome to join. Contact Adrienne Summerlot for more info at children@uucci.org

Music Reading Class

Wednesday, May 8 at 6 pm

Louise Hillery is leading a class to teach music literacy. Seating is limited. Please contact Louise for more information at music@uucci.org

Choir Practice

Wednesday, May 8 at 7 pm

To join, contact Louise at music@uucci.org.

UUCCI PROGRAMS

MAY 2024

Spiritual Living Circle

Monday, May 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.

Music Reading Class

Wednesday, May 15 at 6 pm

Louise Hillery is leading a class to teach music literacy. Seating is limited. Please contact Louise for more information at music@uucci.org

Choir Practice

Wednesday, May 15 at 7 pm

To join, contact Louise at music@uucci.org.

Womens Chalice Circle

Thursday, April 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

Environmental Action Team Meeting

Sunday, May 19 at 11:30

Join the environmental action team after service this Sunday to find out how you can get involved.

Building and Grounds Meeting

Wednesday, May 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

Chalice Circle

Thursday, May 23 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

Yard Sale Drop Off Begins

Tuesday, May 28

Drop off any items that you would like to donate at UUCCI. Brittany will be in her office from 10 am - 2 pm if you need any assistance carrying items or boxes,

UUCCI Annual Yard Sale

Friday, May 31st & Saturday, June 1st

From 8 am - 4 pm

Each year, UUCCI hosts a yard sale to help us raise funds for projects, programs, and community services. Find some new-to-you treasures and support a great cause! If you would like to volunteer, [click here to sign up](#).

COLUMBUS INTERFAITH

EVENTS AT UCCI INTERFAITH CAMPUS



Interfaith National Day of Prayer
Thursday, May 2nd at 6 pm
at South Side Elementary Auditorium
1320 W 200 S, Columbus, IN 47201

This event is being organized by our friends from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints through Columbus Interfaith. Representatives from a variety of spiritual paths will provide wisdom from their faith background and offer a prayer. This is a wonderful opportunity to build bridges with our friends of other faiths and learn more about the cultures that we share our community with.

Organizers are looking for the following volunteers:

- People able to bring a side dish to share.
- People willing to help serve food during the communal meal afterward

If you are interested in lending a hand, please reach out to Juliet Gilchrist at julietelizgilchrist@gmail.com



Columbus Interfaith Meeting
Wednesday, May 8 at 6 pm
Hosted by Columbus Interfaith

Each month, the guiding members of Columbus Interfaith meet to discuss upcoming events, organize the shared calendar for the campus space, and share support.



Group Meditation and Dharma Talk
Sunday, May 12 6 at 2:30 pm
Hosted by 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

EVENTS AT UCCI INTERFAITH CAMPUS



Interfaith Peace Camp Volunteer Training

Sunday, May 19 at 1 pm

Set up 12:30pm-1pm Clean up 3pm-3:30pm

Training for Volunteers who are working as Leaders, Assistants and Counselors in Training during Interfaith Peace Camp during the week of June 10th-14th



Group Meditation and Dharma Talk

Sunday, May 26 at 2:30 pm

Hosted by 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



Healing Circle (Ages 18+)

Wednesday, May 26 at 5 pm

Hosted by Tree of Knowledge Coven

Healing Circle is hosted by Tree of Knowledge Coven, but is open to all members of the community who are seeking support for their mental health needs. Each gathering will include a time for sharing our personal stories, sharing skills and tools that have helped ourselves (and may help others), and our facilitator Tyler DeShong will provide helpful resources for guests.

During the May circle, we will be discussing grief. Join us as we explore the different types of grief, how it manifests in our lives, and the importance of self-awareness.