

MARCH 2024 ISSUE

UUCCI NEWSLETTER

AWAKENING WITH SPRING

MUSIC RUNS IN THE FAMILY

BY LOUISE HILLERY

Youth
Truth
Sunday

**UUCCI
YARD SALE
COMING SOON!**

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SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday Mornings at 10 am

MAR 3 *Youth Truth Sunday (All Ages)*

With Bella Barnard, Sophia Barnard, Ronnie Brumburg, Emma Dominguez, Bethany Leland, Aurora Phillips, Nora Rittenhouse, and Symin Sandlin

We are so proud of our amazing youth for their passion, creativity, and hard work in planning this service! Gender Inclusion is the topic our youth chose for their first Youth Truth Sunday. They are excited to share with you their truth - their experiences, thoughts, and feelings, as they look at how gender intersects with community and respect.

MAR 10 *Bring Many Names: Why Language Fails Us, Metaphor Saves Us, and Gods Surround Us*

With Rev. Nic Cable & Lesley Reuter

MAR 17 *Our Faith is But a Single Gem: Ethical Lessons from World Religions*

With Rev. Nic Cable & Chris Kevitt

MAR 24 *Abide with Me: Seeking Understanding in the Face of Suffering and Death*

With Rev. Nic Cable & Liz Nolan-Greven

MAR 31 *Interfaith Poetry Sunday*

With the UUCCI Sunday Service Team



LETTER FROM THE MINISTER

DEAR ONES,

As I mentioned last month, March kicks off our interfaith series that will take us up to the culminating event: The First Annual Bridge Builders Summit, hosted by Columbus Interfaith. The registration form is now live and I encourage you to consider whether deepening your commitment to interfaith work is something you want to do. In anticipation of this series and Summit, I wanted to share a little about why I personally value interfaith work.

My leadership philosophy could be visualized as three concentric circles. The three circles represent orientations, values, and commitments some of which are unique to one, two, or all three: Religious Leadership (smallest), Interfaith Leadership (middle), and Civic Leadership (largest). Religious leadership can arrogantly stay strictly within a sectarian, congregational, academic, and/or insular framework. Interfaith leadership can remain in the ivory tower as well, or in the contextless setting of textual, dialogical, ritual, or cultural engagement. Civic leadership can seek a strict separation from religiosity, choosing instead to take on the form of an entirely secular and non-religious nature.

I came to Columbus because I am inspired by the spirit, essence, longing, and emerging future of the UU, interfaith, and civic circles here. The soil is rich from seeds planted and harvested and planted again decades ago. Due to my long formation as an interfaith leader, I was particularly inspired by the partnerships the UU congregation had with other religious communities in the area. For example, Sha'arei Shalom Reform Jewish Congregation and the Hindu Society of Southern, Indiana, have collocated with UUCCI for the past fifty and twenty five years, respectively. As I was in conversations with the search committee about becoming UUCCI's settled minister, one of the documents they shared with me was a Memorandum of Understanding for the initial imaginings of the Columbus Interfaith Campus (CIC).

When I arrived in 2017, I began attending monthly CIC meetings. Those in attendance were receptive to my presence and leadership, as if I was a missing piece that would compliment the many pieces already on the board. It became quickly apparent to me that the primary emphasis was on the logistics (legal, financial, architectural) for building an interfaith campus compared

to the relationships (stakeholder engagement, programs, vision) for fostering an interfaith community. Both are important, both are necessary. The latter was likely the hole that I could fill as the new settled minister of UUCCI, especially with the leadership knowledge and experience in my background. In the two and half years of ministry pre-pandemic, the programs and strategic vision for the campus and community gained greater clarity. I assembled a six person guiding team representing five religious communities—three on the campus (UU, Hindu, and Jewish) and two in the wider community (liberal Protestant Christian and Muslim). I encouraged us to attend a two day-long stakeholder engagement training hosted by Civic Lab, which is part of the Community Education Coalition. Gaining some essential community development skills, the relational work was catching up to the logistics unfolding for the campus.

Our interfaith work was useful when the pandemic strained our connection and programs. Yet, under the surface we were nurturing a root system ready to build upon the visions long seeded in our community. Like a slingshot utilizing the gravity off the moon, we have taken the turn to a truly new era of our partnerships with the Bridge Builders Summit, Interfaith Day of Prayer, and the Columbus Interfaith Peace Camp. Along with the construction of the Sri Ganesh Mandir (temple), both the campus and community have developed significantly in the past few years.

I want you to know that YOU are personally invited to the open Columbus Interfaith Meeting held each month on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6:00pm-7:00pm. Please consider gathering with our interfaith partners, as we build the world we dream about. I hope to see you at the meeting on March 13th or when you are able.

I hope you all have a wonderful month as spring nears!

With Gratitude,



REV. NIC CABLE
UUCCI Minister

SPLINTERS

FROM THE BOARD

The Board of Trustees has been devoting much time to developing new Ends for the 5 year period of 2025 - 2030. It's an exciting time to be thinking and visioning about the future of UUCI. In March you will get a chance to hear about our progress so far in refining, tweaking and distilling all the input we have already received from the congregation. There will still be opportunities to contribute to this endeavor. On March 24th after our regular Sunday service, the Board will present our first draft of the new Ends (which will likely be renamed Strategic Objectives - more on that to come!). I hope you will be able to join us for this short presentation where you will have a chance to give feedback and ask questions.

An update from our Pledge drive: We received pledges of \$210,120 for 2024. This was a bit short of our goal, which was \$232,350, but we are confident that we can manage our expenses.

Last year our pledges received went over the projected amount (\$209,852 over the expected amount of \$206,000). Members and friends of the congregation can pledge at any time of the year, so if you didn't do that during the pledge drive, and would like to, it's not too late. We have three fundraisers planned for this year which will bring in extra funding.

In order to make it easier for the congregation to review the approved minutes of the monthly board meetings, we will begin to have a link to the most recent minutes here in the newsletter. The minutes are also printed and posted on the bulletin board outside of the church office if you would like to review them there.

The first day of Spring is just days away, bring it on, Mother Nature!

Carol Kostrzewsky
President, Board of Trustees

MUSIC AT UUCCI



Music Runs in the Family

Does your child have a gift for music? Sometimes you can tell. When they're very young, they feel the need to move when they hear music: bouncing, marching, dancing, banging on something. Sometimes, you can't tell. They keep their music inside them. Or they haven't discovered it yet.

How can you know if it's time to start music lessons, and what instrument? The right age depends on the instrument.

Violin and other string instruments are sometimes started around kindergarten age. They have the cutest teeny tiny instruments for little hands! At that age, the parent will need to be an active learner with the child. But violinists and other string players can also start later, even up to high school age, if they are interested.

For piano, a good age to start is around grade 2 or 3, if the child is doing well in school. If they are older when they show an interest, they can make up for lost time quickly. Anyone who wants to be a singer should learn a little bit of piano, even if they don't want to become serious players.

A band instrument is most often started around grade 6, when the child is large enough to handle a standard-sized instrument. Fair warning: band can become the center of a kid's social life. But if you want your kid to have friends who do well in school, stay out of trouble, and develop teamwork skills, individual work habits, and self-confidence, then band is the place to be.



Contact Louise at
music@uucci.org.

THE NEXT FRIDAY MUSIC NIGHT WILL BE ON APRIL 26. FOOD AND FRIENDS AT 6:00, MUSIC AT 7:00.

MARCH

Children and Youth Ministry at UUCCI



March 3- All Ages Youth Truth Sunday

We are so proud of our amazing youth for their passion, creativity and hard work in planning this service! Gender Inclusion is the topic our youth chose for their first Youth Truth Sunday. They are excited to share with you their truth - their experiences, thoughts, and feelings, as they look at how gender intersects with respect and community.

Sunday Programming from 10:15-11:15am for kids

March 10- Holi & Ramadan- Kindergarten and up will gather in the makerspace to learn about the Hindu festival of Holi and the holy month of Ramadan. We will create art and cards to send to our Interfaith friends.

March 17- Spring Equinox- Kindergarten and up will welcome the first day of spring with a scavenger hunt and other outdoor activities as weather permits. Guests from Tree of Knowledge Coven will share about Spring Equinox.

March 24-Purim- Kindergarten-4th graders will meet in the Elsie Weekly room to learn about the joyous Jewish holiday that celebrates courage, bravery, and standing up for what's right.

March 31-Easter- Kindergarten-4th graders will learn about Jesus as a teacher and the lessons of love and kindness that still bring hope and joy to people all over the world.

YOUTH GROUP FOR 5TH GRADE +



Uuth group will not meet on March 10th or 17th due to spring Break. Youth are welcome to attend service or join our other programming. Uuth group will meet for Fun and Fellowship on March 24th and 31st.

MEETS
MARCH 24TH
MARCH 31ST

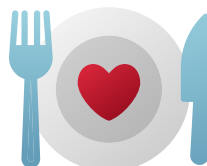
GAME NIGHT Friday
March 22
6 to 8pm
Fun for All Ages



Pizza Dinner Provided
Bring a snack to share!



Help with Hot Meals
at First Presbyterian
March 8th from 4-6pm



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



Sunny Currier
Youth Coordinator
youth@uucci.org

We are here to help and support children, youth and families. Please reach out!



From Sunny Currier
youth@uucci.org

OWL INFORMATION & REGISTRATION STARTING MARCH 3

Our Whole Lives (OWL) offers comprehensive and inclusive sexuality education for all stages of life. Based on a holistic view of sexuality, OWL provides a unique opportunity to experience honest, helpful, medically accurate information, including topics typically excluded from school health class. OWL puts sexuality in the context of values and personal responsibility, supports healthy decision making, and strengthens healthy relationship skills. These values and skills help prepare and empower youth to make healthy choices.

An OWL class for Grades 7-9 will be starting in August. More information and sign-ups will be available during coffee time after the service on March 3rd, or contact Sunny Currier at youth@uucci.org.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Many of us are looking forward to warmer weather. Good news! There are a few fun filled events ahead! We are in need of volunteers to make these community gatherings a success. Please contact Adrienne Summerlot children@uucci.org if you would like more information or to volunteer.

12-4pm

INTERFAITH SOLAR ECLIPSE VIEWING PARTY

Monday April 8, 2024

ALL AGES
Crafts
Games
Fun & Friends

Bring a Picnic Lunch
Solar Eclipse Glasses
for the first 100

Are you excited about the upcoming solar eclipse? We are inviting our Columbus Interfaith Partners to join us at UUCI for this awe-inspiring celestial event. The Earth, Sun, and Moon are all lining up, now it is up to us to get volunteers lined up. We are seeking volunteers to help orient guests to our grounds, lead some outdoors games, crafts, and helping to ensure safety. If you have additional ideas, we welcome them and YOU to join us!

Unitarian Universalists value the interconnected web of life and our responsibility to be good stewards of our Blue Boat Home. In celebration of Earth Day, we invite folks to share their favorite earth friendly swaps, help us brush up our knowledge, reduce pollution in the textile industry via a clothing swap, and improve our green thumbs with a plant swap.

How would you like to be involved?

EARTH DAY

Sunday, April 28th 11:30am - 1 pm

Clothing Swap

Brush up on your habits to
Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle

Plant & Seed Exchange

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 have many ways you can be involved, 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



<https://bit.ly/VolunteerPeaceCamp2024>

June
10th-14th
9am- 4pm

ages 5-12 years

INTERFAITH PEACE CAMP

Questions:
Adrienne Summerlot
children@uuccl.org

COST:
Sliding Scale:
\$50-\$125



Music, Singing, & Friends!



Nature, Bubbles
& Outdoor Fun!



Special Guests!

OPTIONAL
Friday Night June 14th



Family pitch In
& Camp out

REGISTER:



bit.ly/2024PeaceCamp

SAVE THE DATE! UUCCI Annual Yard Sale Coming Up

Friday, May 31 to Saturday, June 1

It's not too early to start gathering items for UUCCI's yard sale fundraiser. This sale excludes clothing and shoes as we've found that it's not worth the effort to display. Good sellers include: furniture, tools & implements, books & magazines, toys and anything else.

This is a "name your price" sale so don't worry about pricing your items unless you specifically have a set price in mind.

Look for more information in April and May to learn about volunteering to work for set up, day of sale, and sale close down. Members and Friends are offered an "early bird" sale opportunity before the sale. This is a fun event for our community as we get to visit with each other, find things we need and cast off items that need to leave home.

*The cat
is not for
sale!*



UUCCI PROGRAMS

MARCH 2024

Sunday Services Meeting

Friday, March 1 at 10:30 am

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

All Ages Youth Truth Sunday

Sunday, March 3 at 10:00 am

We are so proud of our amazing youth for their passion, creativity and hard work in planning this service! Gender Inclusion is the topic our youth chose for their first Youth Truth Sunday. They are excited to share with you their truth - their experiences, thoughts, and feelings, as they look at how gender intersects with respect and community.

Pastoral Care Team Meeting

Wednesday, March 6 at 2 pm

Our Pastoral Care Team helps us to stay connected with the members of our congregation. If you would like to share a special announcement, birthday, a joy, or a sorrow in our Friday Reminder email, please reach out to Marcia Walker at mwalker@epowerc.net.

Band Practice

Wednesday, March 6 at 7 pm

New members welcome. Contact Louise Hillery at music@uucci.org.

Hearts and Hands Craft Circle

Sunday, March 10 at 12 pm

This is a monthly meeting for all of us crafty types to get together and focus on the hobbies we love. Bring a snack to share if you can and your current project or come learn something new. There will also be options for charitable group projects.

Spiritual Living Circle

Monday, March 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, March 13 at 7 pm

During choir practice, our singers will rehearse songs for upcoming services. Please contact Louise Hillery if you are interested in joining: music@uucci.org

Environmental Action Team Meeting

Sunday, March 17 at 11:30

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

Choir Practice

Wednesday, March 20 at 7 pm

New members welcome. Contact Louise Hillery at music@uucci.org.

Womens Chalice Circle

Thursday, March 21 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

UUCCI PROGRAMS

MARCH 2024

Fourth Friday Fun Night- Game Night!

Friday, March 22 at 6pm

Bring the whole family for a night of pizza, games, fun, and friends!

Band Practice

Wednesday, March 27 at 7 pm

During band practice, our musicians will rehearse songs for upcoming services. Please contact Louise Hillery if you are interested in joining: music@uucci.org

Chalice Circle

Thursday, March 28 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

GAME NIGHT Friday
March 22
6 to 8pm Fun for All Ages
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Pizza Dinner Provided

Bring a snack to share!



COLUMBUS INTERFAITH

EVENTS AT UUCCI INTERFAITH CAMPUS

Healing Circle (Ages 18+)

Monday, March 11 at 6 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.

Columbus Interfaith Meeting

Wednesday, March 13 at 6 pm

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