

JANUARY 2024 ISSUE

UUCI NEWSLETTER

CREATING THE FUTURE WE ENVISION

**WHAT'S NEW FOR THE
NEW YEAR?**

BY LOUISE HILLERY

***UUCI
Group
Each
Week!***

**RACE: THE POWER
OF AN ILLUSION**

A special event by our
Racial Justice Team

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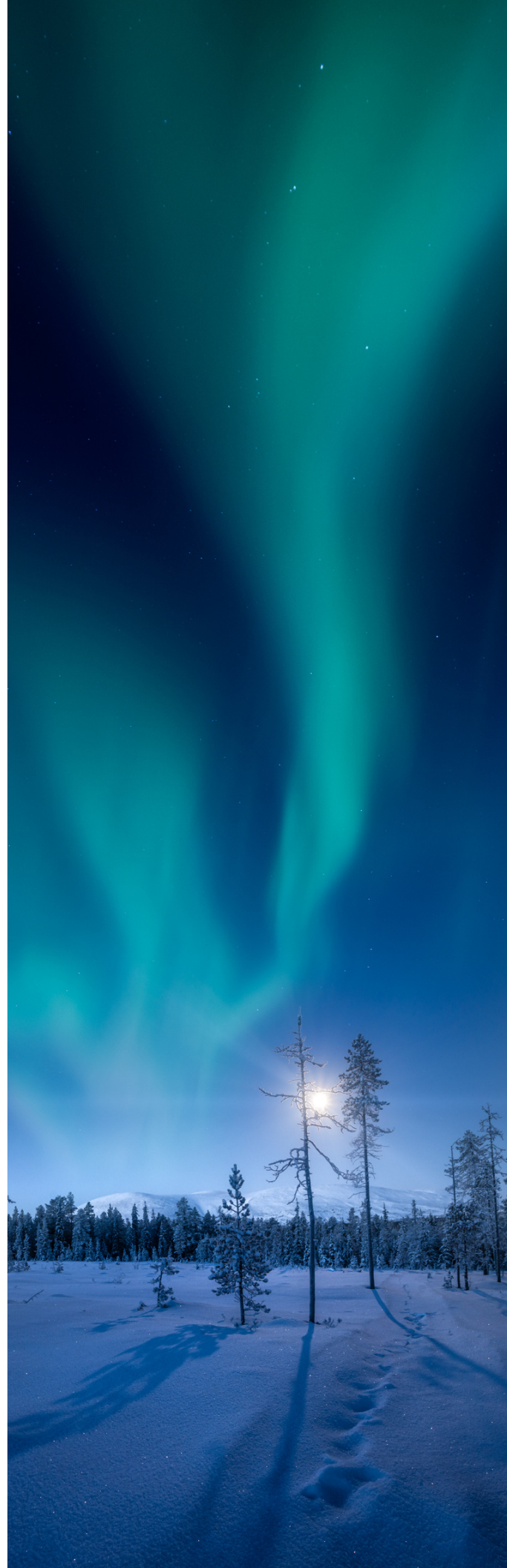
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SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday Mornings at 10 am

JAN 7 *Putting Down and Picking Up:
A Fire Communion Service to Begin the New Year*

With Rev. Nic Cable & Chris Kevitt

As we begin 2024, we pause for a moment of letting go and picking up. We will gather to burn away the things that no longer align with our values and needs; we will pick up the fire of commitment for those things to which we will hold in the coming year. Through a Fire Communion, we will find a way to acknowledge our fears, disappointments, hopes, and courage in community.

JAN 14 *I Can, UUCAN, We Can Together: Courageous Action at UUCCI*

With UU-CAN

Throughout the last several decades, our congregation has been committed to the social justice concerns of our wider community and world. We have focused on different issues and initiatives, as well as cultivated different partnerships to meet the demands of the day. Led by members of the UU Courageous Action Network, this service will articulate some of our past commitments and those opportunities emerging in 2024.

JAN 21 *You, Me, and the Silver Screen: How Film Brings Our Characters to Life*

With Rev. Nic Cable & Liz Nolan Greven

For the next few weeks, we will explore various mediums of art and the impact they have on our sense of self, place, and purpose, and our relationships to others and the world. We begin with a dive into the world of film with an inclusion of TV/Streaming services which have blurred the line between the industries. Rev. Nic will consider how film can shape our values, our understanding of the world, and the character in which we hope to live.

JAN 28 *From Cover to Cover:
How Literature Gives Us Language and Unlocks Our Imaginations*

With Rev. Nic Cable & Liz Nolan Greven

Alfred North Whitehead believed "It is in literature that the concrete outlook of humanity receives its expression." In turning toward the world of writing and reading, we discover an important question: 1) how does literature relate to our ability to communicate and imagine across time and place? Rev. Nic will explore the power literature can play in our lives and our emerging future.

LETTER FROM THE MINISTER

DEAR ONES,

The New Year already presents fitting symbolism to our human lives together in community. As we cycle around the sun once more, we are gifted an opportunity to begin again in love, our journey of resilience, creativity, and hope. This time of year is a time to reflect on the past year and acknowledge the joys and sorrows that accompanied it; to consider the moments where we showed up for one another with our values in hand and the times where we missed the mark; to put down and take up the things that no longer serve or those that are needed in the year ahead.

At UUCCI, while our Program Year follows essentially the school year, we begin 2024 with a new Fiscal Year and Governance Year. And 2024 will be such an exciting year for our shared imagining of our shared future. As has been outlined in various places, including in the 2024 Winter/Spring Program Guide, we are in the early stages of refreshing and casting our Ends statements and developing a strategic plan to help us progress toward them. What the Board is calling Imagine 2030 will spend much of the rest of the year clarifying where we long to go, what we want to do, and how we will get there. Coming completely out of the pandemic, and with the sabbatical behind us, we arrive in 2024 with 6.5 years together in shared ministry and a fitting opportunity to consider what is next.

Thank you to those who shared their stories, wishes, and visions for the future of our congregation and wider community. 35 individuals from diverse backgrounds and experiences within and beyond UUCCI participated in the two visioning sessions held by the Board. In these next couple months the board will take all of these great insights and distill them into some number of statements which will make up a draft of our new proposed Ends. On behalf of the Board, we look forward to engaging with you throughout 2024 as we look to solidify our bright future in language and strategy.

With which values are you hoping to live in 2024? How might UUCCI support you in living with integrity and service to others? What gifts can you share to support our unfolding, resilient, and creative future?

I look forward to more conversations with you all and for the journey we have chosen to take together.

With Gratitude,



REV. NIC CABLE
UUCCI Minister

SPLINTERS

FROM THE BOARD

As we look back at the successes of 2023, including a meaningful sabbatical, social justice activities, community outreach and support as well as numerous fundraising events and social activities, and our excellent weekly Sunday services, we can now look forward to what 2024 will bring and what we can do as a congregation to continue to grow and thrive.

The Board is excited to have completed two visioning sessions with the congregation in December and now we will begin our work on developing new Ends to build on the ones that were made in 2018-2019. We spent a lot of time at our retreat last August working to create our Powerful Question:

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

The next step is to create the new Ends for the next five years and build strategies to achieve them.

All of the goal setting, events, worship services, outreach and community involvement at UUCCI come from the efforts and commitment of volunteers and participants in the life of our congregation. May this be a year of optimism despite the problems in the world and what you may be facing in your own life. With hope and love as our guide, we on the board are looking forward to the next year at UUCCI!

Carol Kostrzewsky
President, Board of Trustees

MUSIC AT UUCCI



What's New For The New Year?

When Christmas is over, liturgical churches refer to the season as “Ordinary Time.” I love this time of year. Our narrowly focused attention expands from trying to recreate the holidays of the past. Suddenly we see a world of possibilities before us. We can sing any song, wear any color, prepare any kind of food, start a long-term project, plan our gardens or dream about our next travels.

Choir members and band members will be starting to work later this spring on a special cantata (a program of sacred music meant to be performed all within one service) composed by Unitarian Universalist musicians and writers to celebrate the 100 th anniversary of our Flower Communion tradition.

If you have an interest in performing with the choir, but something is stopping you from trying it, please talk to Louise or any member of the group. Do you need a beautiful voice? a loud voice? a perfect voice? experience in a choir? the ability to read music? No, no, no, and no!

Our congregation’s band, the Goeller Consort, is looking like it will become a regular thing, rehearsing and performing about once a month. A consort is an ensemble of mixed instruments, without a specific makeup. If you play a musical instrument and would like to join the band, talk to Louise or any band member.

Did you attend our Cabaret last fall? Or were you sorry you missed it? A similar night is planned for the end of January. On Friday, January 26, we’ll begin at 6:00 with a casual pitch-in supper in Fellowship Hall. Then we’ll move to the sanctuary at 7:00 for an hour or so of the best entertainment UUCCI has to offer. Date night? Family night? Night on the town? Put this on your calendar.



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.



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!)

Volunteers
needed



LEARN MORE

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@uccci.org



A New Year, New Learnings and New Connections

by Adrienne Summerlot, Children's Ministry Coordinator

I love the beginning of a new year for a multitude of reasons. First, personally and professionally, I choose a word of the year to live intentionally into. This year, I might be an over achiever, but I am choosing 2 words. **Rest and Fun.** This past year, along with colleagues I have been deeply exploring two books: Rest is Resistance by Tricia Hersey and The Power of Fun by Catherine Price.

I share these titles and few things that I am carrying with me.

- Rest does not need to be earned; it is a divine right.
- We can only reclaim our dream space through rest.

True Fun is at the intersection of playfulness, connection, and flow.



Second, I spend some time visioning, what I dream and hope for the children, youth and families in our congregation. This year, 2024 at General Assembly in June, our denomination will be voting on Article II. Well, you might say, that doesn't seem to support rest or fun, but I assure you it does.

This is an exciting time to be a Unitarian Universalist religious educator. I am in conversations regularly with colleagues who are sharing wild ideas, success stories from their congregations, and figuring out how to grow this faith, support families as they navigate a changing world while raising kids who will be the change they wish to see in this world.

As we are called to explore these values, we will all be learning together how to discern for ourselves what we believe, what we might find challenging, and how to articulate these things whether they be through language, creative endeavors, or through questions. I feel



Let me introduce you to our new friend JETPIG!
J is for Justice
E is for Equity
T is for Transformation
P is for Pluralism
I is for Interdependence
G is for Generosity.

energized by this work and the future of faith formation and look forward into connecting with folks around these ideas, finding ways for us to play, and going with the flow of what is needed- sometimes we need calm, other times we have bubbles of energy, and sometimes are just a trickle.

And finally, I am always eager to create pathways for folks to be involved in our Children's Ministry. This time of year is an opportunity to reach out to people to share their passions, skills, and talents with our children, youth, and families here at UUCCI. I love learning what makes people's hearts sing and fills their come.

I marvel at the moments when someone who might deem themselves "not a kid person" makes a meaningful connection with a kid and then a seed is planted that we can nurture along the way that is rooted in community.



Everything we do is Faith Formation
Everything we teach is Unitarian Universalism
The Congregation is the Curriculum

-Connie Goodbread

UUTH GROUP

We have been having a lot of fun in UUTH Group! I hope everyone had a great Winter Break. We plan to keep having fun & also do some planning - we are taking over the service on March 3, Youth Sunday! You have already chosen a theme - so now it's time to plan the things you want to do in the service. We hope you will all come as often as possible, so we can all share ideas and make our plans together.



We will meet after Wonderbox every Sunday in January. See you soon!

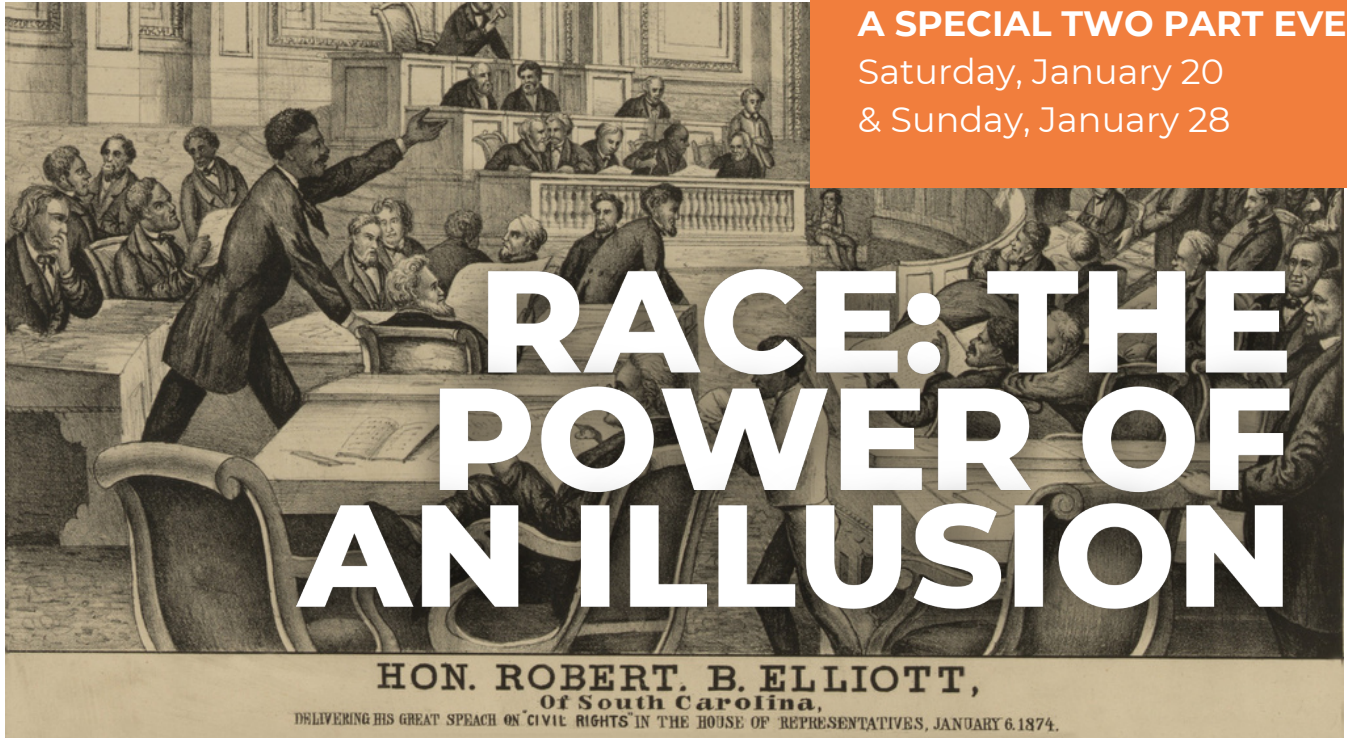
JAN 7TH

JAN 14TH

JAN 21ST

JAN 28TH

Written by Sunny Currier



A SPECIAL TWO PART EVENT

Saturday, January 20

& Sunday, January 28

Have you ever heard that race is a social construct? How can there be only one human race when the people of the world look so different from one another? What does “social construct” even mean?

Please join the Racial Justice Team to explore these questions and the impact that the invention of race has had, historically and in lives today. We will be using videos from “RACE: The Power of an Illusion” as a basis for our discussions. The Racial Justice Team hopes that everyone in the UUCI congregation, Columbus Interfaith, and the NAACP will participate in this two-part event. Please register for all or individual parts of this event by emailing Cynthia Scott at cynscott2011@gmail.com, so we can have enough lunch and materials. We hope to provide childcare for those requesting it. Watch for more information and a registration form in your Order of Service.

Our schedule follows:

Saturday, January 20:

9:30 Gathering, breakfast snacks

10:00 to 12:00 Chapter 1, focusing on science, and breakout discussion

12:00 to 1:00 Lunch, conversation, activities

1:00 to 3:00 Chapter 2, focusing on history, and breakout discussion

Sunday, January 28:

11:00 Light Lunch during coffee hour

12 to 2:00 Nic will moderate as a panel of Columbus residents share their personal experiences around race in their lives, followed by questions and discussion.

RETHINK & RE-SET: DRY JANUARY CHALLENGE

Are you ready to be alcohol free for 30 days?



Join us on this **FREE** comprehensive online program:

- Daily emails on topics such as understanding willpower, cravings, positive self-talk, and more.
- Two videos a week with messages to keep you inspired and focused.
- A weekly group Zoom meeting for registered participants to ask questions, get feedback and stay connected as you rethink and re-set for 2024.



Join your expert guide, Skye Nicholson founder of Soul's Truth Coaching. Skye is a certified This Naked Mind coach. She has guided many groups through this alcohol-free journey based on Annie Grace's book *The Alcohol Experiment*.

REGISTER AT ASAPBC.ORG/DRYJANUARY
OR SCAN THE QR CODE HERE



WELCOME!

INDIANA YOUTH GROUP



Indiana Youth Group (IYG) is now in Columbus. They serve young people ages 12-24 who identify as LGBTQ+, and their peer allies. IYG strives to provide safer spaces to build self-confidence, explore individualism, and develop friendships within the LGBTQ+ community. They promote a space of acceptance, equity, and restorative practices. They also advocate for LGBTQ+ youth in schools, the community, and through family support services. They are located in the United Way building, and are staffed with a Therapist and Case Manager. There are teen events on Thursday nights. All programs and services are offered free of charge. For more information, follow them on Facebook or email them at columbus@indianayouthgroup.org.

UUCCI PROGRAMS

JANUARY 2024

Pastoral Care Team Meeting

Wednesday, January 3 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.

Sunday Services Team Meeting

Friday, January 5 at 10:30 am

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

Spiritual Living Circle

Monday, January 8 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, January 10 at 7 pm

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

Choir Practice

Wednesday, January 17 at 7 pm

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

Womens Chalice Circle

Thursday, January 18 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

RACE: The Power Of An Illusion

Saturday, January 20 from 9:30 am -

Have you ever heard that race is a social construct? How can there be only one human race when the people of the world look so different from one another? What does "social construct" even mean? Please join the Racial Justice Team to explore these questions and the impact that the invention of race has had, historically and in lives today. We will be using videos from "RACE: The Power of an Illusion" as a basis for our discussions. On Saturday, January 20, from 9:30 am to about 3:00 pm, we will gather at UUCCI for coffee and breakfast treats, then view the first video beginning at 10:00 to understand the biology and invention of race, followed by a breakout discussion. After having lunch together, about 1:00 p.m., we will watch the second video, which highlights the impact of race on the history of the United States, followed by breakout discussion.

Please register for all or individual parts of this event by emailing Cynthia Scott at cynscott2011@gmail.com, so we can have enough lunch and materials. We hope to provide childcare for those requesting it. Watch for more information and a registration form in your Order of Service.

UUCCI PROGRAMS

JANUARY 2024

Building & Grounds Team Meeting

Wednesday, January 24 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, January 25 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

Fourth Friday Fun Night- Cabaret

Friday, January 26 at 6pm

Pitch In Dinner begins at 6 pm, and the music and entertainment begin at 7 pm (NOTE: Louise is the point person on this and may have more information)

RACE: The Power of An Illusion

Sunday, January 28 from 12 pm - 2 pm

On Sunday, January 28, noon to about 2:00 pm, we will reconvene following a light lunch during coffee hour. Rather than show the 3rd chapter of this 2003 video series about the impact of race at that time, we will hear a panel of Columbus residents share their personal experiences around race in their lives. There will be time for questions and discussion. The Racial Justice Team hopes that everyone in the UUCCI congregation, Columbus Interfaith, and the NAACP will participate in this two-part event. Please register for all or individual parts of this event by emailing Cynthia Scott at cynscott2011@gmail.com, so we can have enough lunch and materials. We hope to provide childcare for those requesting it. Watch for more information and a registration form in your Order of Service.

COLUMBUS INTERFAITH

EVENTS AT UCCI INTERFAITH CAMPUS

Healing Circle

Monday, January 8th at 6 pm

Hosted by Tree of Knowledge Coven

Ages 18+

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, January 10 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.

Kids Full Moon Party

January 27th at 6 pm

Hosted by Tree of Knowledge Coven

All Ages Welcome!

Join us for a family celebration of the Wolf Moon! Kids will hear a story about the moon cycle, learn about wolves, make wolf paw print cookies, and go for a nature walk to howl at the moon!

Candle Night Gathering

February 3rd at 5 pm

Ages 18+

This year, we will celebrate Candle Night by sharing a feast, joining together in ritual, and blessing customized candles for each guest during a sunset ritual so that we may carry our light into the world. Details about this event will be shared in our weekly emails.



The graphic features a blue background with a green tree on the left and a brown tent with a yellow window. Three polaroid photos are arranged horizontally: the first shows a group of children holding a 'PEACE CAMP' sign; the second shows a child holding a string; the third shows a group of children in a circle. Below the photos, the text reads: 'INTERFAITH PEACE CAMP', 'JUNE 10TH-JUNE 14TH', 'AGES 5-12 YEARS', and 'OPTIONAL FAMILY CAMPOUT JUNE 14TH-15TH'. A wooden sign on the right says 'REGISTRATION COMING SOON!'.

FRIENDS **OUTDOORS** **GAMES**

INTERFAITH PEACE CAMP
JUNE 10TH-JUNE 14TH
AGES 5-12 YEARS
OPTIONAL FAMILY CAMPOUT JUNE 14TH-15TH

REGISTRATION COMING SOON!