

UUCCI NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2023 ISSUE UUCCI.ORG

SABBATICAL
SPOTLIGHT:

SCOTT
RUSSELL
SANDERS

Splinters From
The Board

ARTICLE II
REPORT

DEVELOPING A
SENSE OF PLACE

BY ADRIENNE SUMMERLOT

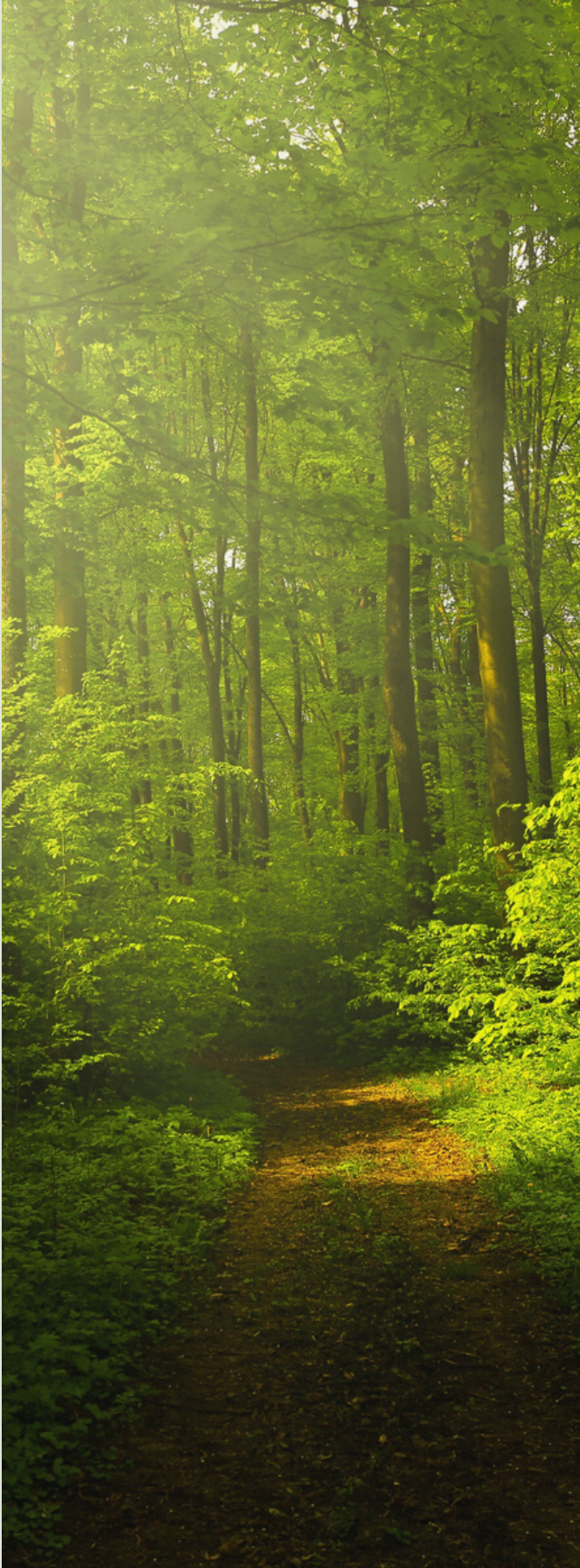


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Postcards from the Minister

03 Where in the World is Nic?

Upcoming Sunday Services

05 All Ages Services and Guest Speakers!

Splinters From the Board

06 Anticipation With Linda

Article II Report

07 And General Assembly Info

UUCCI Events

12 How to Find "Your People"

Interfaith Events

15 Make Connections & New Friends

Sabbatical Spotlight

19 Meet Our Guest Speaker

POSTCARDS FROM THE MINISTER

Hello Friends!

Last week, I took Holly on a roadtrip to visit my mom and her partner in Milwaukee. This was the first leg of my ancestral pilgrimage beginning with my mom's side of the tree. Both of her sides of the family—all 16 of my great, great, great grandparents—migrated from Germany to the Milwaukee area, specifically the northern rural areas of Germantown and Jackson. While staying with my mom, I looked through old photo albums that my grandmother put together. I couldn't help but take pictures like a tourist gawking at every page of memories past. Here are a few that really stuck out:

Each photo brought back memories for my mom and countless unremembered ones available perhaps only now in the eye of the beholder. I was just nine and eleven when my mom's parents, Papa and Nana, died. My memories with Nana are stronger. She was a kind, caring, quiet, and loving woman. She was devoted to her Christian faith, which was shown through her warmth and smile. My longing for this exploration of uncovering my family ancestry relates a lot to my lack of memories of my maternal grandparents. Thankfully, my mom and my aunt (who we had lunch with this past week) had many memories to share with me.

With Gratitude,
Rev. Nic Cable




ELIZABETH VALENCIA- GUTIERREZ

Elizabeth Valencia is the Intern Minister at All Souls until June 2022. She is born to Mexican parents, and was raised in California. She is a Muslim who converted from Catholicism in 2001. She brings with her into this work a diverse spiritual history and deep passion for doing justice in the world.



Elizabeth Valencia,
Community Minister Liason
All Souls Indianapolis

“I look forward to supporting UUCCI through this time of sabbatical. The goal of my sermon series is to address the important themes of change, transitions, and our personal and collective journeys. Together, we will reflect on our religious and cultural identities as UUs, as we journey toward becoming a beloved community where all can live and thrive.”

-Elizabeth Valencia-Gutierrez

UUCCI is thrilled to welcome our Sabbatical Preacher, Elizabeth Valencia-Gutierrez. Elizabeth uses she/hers/they/ella pronouns. She served as Intern Minister at All Souls Unitarian Church of Indianapolis until June 2022 at which time she served as Summer Pastoral Care Minister. Elizabeth was born to Mexican parents, and was raised in Southern California. She is a Muslim who converted from Catholicism in early 2001. She brings into her ministry a diverse spiritual history and a commitment to community. Elizabeth currently serves as Affiliated Community Multicultural Ministry Partner at ASUC, while pursuing Ministerial Fellowship through the Unitarian Universalist Association. Elizabeth is also pursuing a Masters of Marriage & Family Therapy. Elizabeth's home congregation is the Unitarian Universalist Church of Indianapolis (UUI).

UPCOMING SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday Mornings at 10 am

FEB 05 *Part 3: Death by a Thousand Paper Cuts*

Guest Speaker Elizabeth Valencia-Gutierrez

This Sunday, we begin to explore our individual and communal stories and journeys. In this service, we invite a tender-hold of what we wrestle with, of the ways in which we've been hurt in religious/spiritual communities.

FEB 12 *Creating a Community of Care*

All Ages Service With Adrienne Summerlot

This service will talk about the complexity of feelings, sensations and sometimes holding several at the same time. Message: you are exactly where you need to be right now, exactly as you are, you are welcome here, cared for here. This is what community is for.

FEB 19 *Being UU and So Much More*

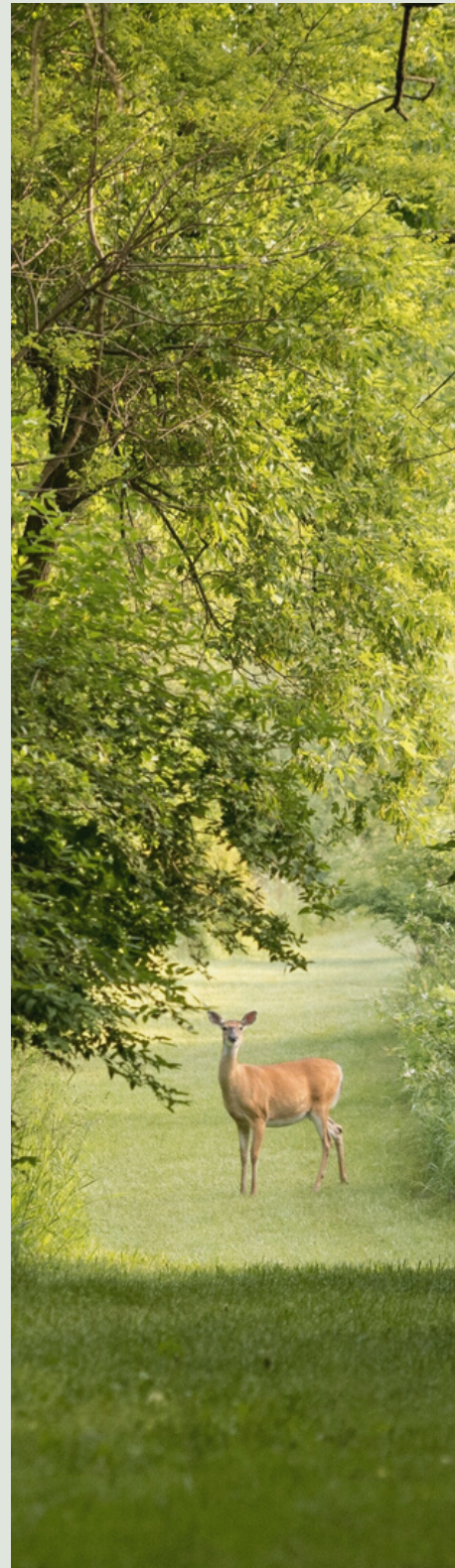
Guest Speaker Elizabeth Valencia-Gutierrez

UUCCI is thrilled to welcome our Sabbatical Preacher, Elizabeth Valencia-Gutierrez. This service is the fourth part to her Sermon series.

FEB 26 *Spirit Of Place*

Guest Speaker Scott Russell Sanders

Join us for a special service to celebrate the land and community we share.



SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD

ANTICIPATION

Anticipation What images does that word bring to mind? Can you remember a time when you greatly anticipated something, big or small? Safely seeing family members again, as we navigated the pandemic? Buying that first new-to-you auto? Awaiting the birth of your first child?

Some of you may remember the Heinz Tomato Ketchup commercial that featured Carly Simon's Billboard hit, "Anticipation." The storyline was that one had to wait for the ketchup to slowly flow out of the bottle (in the days before the invention of the upside down bottle), with the anticipation making it taste so much better.

While I am not saying that ketchup is in any way remotely related to our upcoming sabbatical events, I can say that we should all feel great anticipation for the new experiences that await us. While Rev. Nic is on his sabbatical, seeking his roots, our sabbatical affords us the opportunity to dig deeper (roots pun intended) as we explore who we are, how we got here and what might lie ahead. I hope you will all take advantage of the programs that begin this month with Scott Russell Sanders.

SOMETHING TO CONSIDER

In 2023, the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), of which UUCCI is a member congregation, convenes General Assembly (GA) in Pittsburgh, PA and online, June 21-25. UUCCI is eligible to name three delegates who can represent us, either on site or virtually, at the business sessions of GA. While UUCCI cannot fully fund the cost of attendance, we do have a modest budget to defray some of the cost. registration fees are reduced until February 28.

If you are curious about this event and think perhaps you might be interested in representing UUCCI, I strongly encourage you to check out the website for the many activities that occur during GA, <https://www.uua.org/ga>. Several UUCCI members have attended in the past and have found it a worthwhile experience that has deepened their connection with Unitarian Universalism.

I look forward to hearing from you if you have an interest.

Linda Iwamuro
Board President

ARTICLE II REPORT



The Article II Study Commission has submitted their report to the UUA Board of Trustees. Article II of the UUA Bylaws articulates the purpose of the organization. Since 1985, it has included the 7 Principles and 6 Sources that we consider to represent our values. Because the bylaws require periodic review of Article II, a commission has studied it for the last 2 years.

You can read the report here: [Report to the UUA Board of Trustees from the Article II Study Commission \(PDF\)](#). The report is informative, includes members of the study commission and the charge they were given by the UUA board, as well as the approach they took for the project. It includes both the current Article II and the proposed revision. It explains the process and timeline. If you are feeling grief about the elimination of the familiar 7 principles, please especially read the conclusion of the report.

General Assembly 2023

June 21 - 25, 2023

David L. Lawrence Convention Center,
1000 Fort Duquesne Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA

More Info Here

Learn more at <https://www.uua.org/ga> or click the image above for the Article II Report

Watch [this video](#) from the Article II commission which explains the process, timeline, and what comes next!

What happens next? There will be opportunity for learning and discussion via regional forums, and for the recommendation of amendments by General Assembly delegates and the UUA Board before the vote at GA, June 21-25 in Pittsburgh. If the proposal passes (simple majority), it will move forward to GA 2024, where it will need a 2/3rd majority vote for adoption as the new Article II.

Would you like to talk with someone at UUCCI about the proposal? Do you think UUCCI needs to have a discussion about it? If so, talk with Jennifer Schall, Adrienne Summerlot, or Chris Kevitt. Would you like to learn more about being a delegate to General Assembly? If so, talk with Linda Iwamuro.

By Chris Kevitt

WHAT I CAN'T IMAGINE

"Why are we having Sabbatical Workshops at UUCCI?" I imagine a member asking. "Isn't this Sabbatical Leave for Rev. Nic, to get rested and refreshed and recharged?"

And I imagine myself asking back, "Are you telling me that you don't need rest, refreshing, and recharging, after all that Covid has brought into our lives and taken away from us in these recent years? The losses, the fears, the sadness, the worries, the feelings of disconnection? What do you want Rev. Nic to come back to, a passive, worn-out, tuned-out congregation just waiting to be cared for? Or a revitalized group of loving friends who know where they want to go, and are willing and able to share the lead on the journey?"

Our Sunday services during this time, and our special Sabbatical Weekends, are intended to help all of us deal with our losses, break out of our doldrums, and start looking toward our future. Not too different from the purposes of an old-fashioned American tent revival in some religious traditions.

As the person responsible for helping the Sunday Service Team and our guest speakers organize services for UUCCI during this Sabbatical time, I look ahead and see in February:

- Two visits from our personable and interesting Sabbatical Preacher Elizabeth Valencia-Gutierrez. If you were present for her first service on January 8, you may recall how so many people wanted to talk to her personally that they kept her busy greeting and shaking hands for an hour and a half after the service.
- A Valentine's service about feelings, led by Children's Director Adrienne Summerlot. If you've attended any of Adrienne's services, you know she can make complicated issues so real and concrete that even an adult can understand, and have fun while doing it.
- Our second service by author Scott Russell Sanders. Scott will talk about understanding our place in the real world, the spirit and history of our particular place, and what he has collected at Saturday's workshop of our own members' dreams for the future of our place.

I can imagine many things, but I can't imagine missing any of these upcoming services. See you there?

Louise Hillery
Acting Music Director

DEVELOPING A SENSE OF PLACE



We are often pulled in many directions, sometimes several at the same moment in time. There are a few things we can do as adults to find grounding, and can teach children.

First is wayfinding. Slowing down for a moment to orient yourself to understand exactly where you are. Which way is North, South, East, and West. This can be a literal centering practice. Connect with the seasons and know where you are. Right now, we are at the halfway point between winter and spring. We are fortunate here at UUCCI to have splendid grounds for exploring and a labyrinth to walk.

Second is finding a place in nature that you feel connected to and care for. Especially with young children, this can become what we call a “sit spot”. A place you visit often and you sit and observe and watch it change with the seasons, at certain times of day, and over the years. Each of our children have a spot they love to visit, they find solace, inspiration, and when they want to bring a friend there, I know they are truly wanting to share something special. When I visited Star Island with my son this past summer, I instantly took him to my 2 favorite places on the island- one to watch the sunrise, the other to watch the sun set. And I was delighted to hear at the end of the next day, he had found his own special places on the island and religiously, for that entire week- he was there, several times a day. When we return this summer, I know he will instantly revisit those special places that captured his heart and helped him connect with this beautiful place.

Third is finding a place where you can be exactly who you are, show up authentically, be seen, heard, and cared for. UUCCI is a place where the community, deep sharing, and finding your people is palpable. A place to develop your identity, where you can be nurtured and supported in your own personal growth is key in living a fulfilling life.

One of the greatest compliments I received when someone visited UUCCI this past year was them saying to me, “You can tell children are seen and honored here.” That is a testament of how this congregation holds space for children, families, and intergenerational connection.

By Adrienne Summerlot,
Children's Ministry Coordinator

MEETING YOUR GENIUS LOCI

When I was young, I loved mythology and still do to this day. I was fascinated with how myths and lore are often rooted to specific locations and cities, creating a spiritual kinship among all who share that area. While studying Athens and Sparta, I would wonder "How were two communities that were so close geographically so different in cultures and views? Even their patron deities, Athena and Ares, are both gods of war, but with vastly different personalities. What deity would represent Columbus?"

Columbus Indiana has earned the nickname "Athens of the Prairie" because it is a small town with a passion for art, architecture, and community. If you walk around Columbus, you'll notice that many streets downtown are lined with buildings designed by world famous architects and art installations that change each year from artists around the country.

During the 2006 Sculpture invitational, we were blessed with a gorgeous statue of the Greek Goddess Eos by artist Dessa Kirk. It was intended to be a temporary installment, however the people of our town loved her dearly and fought to keep her. A campaign to "Save Eos!" quickly raised \$35,000 to purchase her from the artist and keep her as a permanent resident of our city.



Photo by Carol Highsmith

In some ways, she is treated as a patron goddess by many Columbus locals. Our family (and others), are sure to roll down the car windows, wave, and shout "Hi Eos!" with the kids everytime we drive past or go to the lovely park she faces. Many people leave small biodegradable offerings around her roots, which the city lovingly covers in flowers and climbing vines. The Greek goddess Eos is the goddess of the dawn, but her local incarnation is also associated with children. Her open arms welcome and greet children as they enter Millrace Park, and many little ones delight in seeing her, too. To many residents of Columbus, she also represents love and service to others. This is not only because of her origin story of the community coming together to adopt her, but she also represents the spirit of Columbus that existed long before her creation. This city was built by many families that poured their fortunes into the well-being of the city and it's people. These kind folks wanted their fellow citizens to have the best schools, public buildings, churches, and parks possible. As a result, the city flourished and is now an oasis of art, architecture, and compassion in the middle of nowhere, Indiana.

Genius Loci means "Spirit of Place" and was the term used by ancient Romans to describe the guardian spirit of a place. In modern times, this term is used in art and architecture to mean the essence or personality of a place. Your area, whether in the city or deep in the woods, will have it's own unique Spirit or personality. The plants, buildings, water sources, festivals, animals, and even YOU contribute individual energies that weave together to form a unique energetic ecosystem. Take some time this month to get out there and meet your local Genius Loci! Take a walk around your city, maybe check out the Visitor Center and brush up on the local history. What is the character of your city? What are its values? It's backstory? Is there a symbol that represents those things to you? More importantly, I invite you to reflect on how the spirit of the community influences you. How is your own spirit and acts of kindness nurturing the spirit of the small world we share?

By Brittany Phillips,
Office Administrator

COURAGEOUS ACTION COUNCIL

Courageous Action Council is made up of leaders of 5 "Ministry Teams," that take the lead in performing and organizing important functions of the congregation. These teams seek to give meaning to the congregation's central mission of "what we are about." The Council meets six times a year to compare notes on what their individual teams are working on, how things are going, and what they are planning.

Members of the Courageous Action Council are Dick Boyce representing the Environmental Action Team, Cathy Caldie representing the Global Action Team, Kathleen Leason representing the Racial Justice Team, Sondra Bolte representing Welcoming Congregation, and Patti Wade representing the Hot Meals program.

During Rev. Nic's absence for his sabbatical study leave, Louise Hillery is convening the Courageous Action Council. Plans for the upcoming meeting include recognizing how the missions of each team have changed over time or been affected to the Covid Pandemic, looking at what changes may be needed to meet the needs of the congregation and community as they exist at present, and considering ways to work together as a force multiplier.

Louise Hillery,
temporary leader

NEWS FROM THE SUNDAY SERVICE TEAM

This spring, members of the Sunday Service Team are welcoming back Worship Associate Kevin Altevogt, who returned from his 3-month work assignment in Darlington, England. And former team member Peggy Sabau received our heartfelt gratitude for stepping in so ably to fill Kevin's spot in his absence.

The team members continue to work on the challenge of planning services with a different minister every week. It requires a lot of explaining how we do things, and realizing that there are many ways and customs of conducting Sunday services in Unitarian Universalism. But who would expect all UU's to do things all the same way?

During the month of February, Chris Kevitt will greet Elizabeth Valencia-Gutierrez for her third service, titled "Death by a Thousand Paper Cuts." Steve Jasper will host Elizabeth's fourth visit, titled "Being UU and So Much More."

Children's Director Adrienne Summerlot and Skye Nicolson will discuss "An Atlas of the Heart, Inside Out" in an all-ages service. And on February 26, Liz Nolan-Greven will host our Sabbatical consultant Scott Russell Sanders as he sums up the results of the previous day's Sabbatical Workshop.

Every month, the team discusses what worked well in previous services, and what could be improved. Please speak to any of the team members with praise or suggestions to make Sunday services more meaningful for you: Steve Jasper, Kevin Altevogt, Cynthia Scott, Chris Kevitt, Skye Nicholson, and Liz Nolan-Greven.

Louise Hillery,
temporary leader

UUCCI PROGRAMS

Get Involved

There is always something happening at UUCCI. Here are a few of the upcoming discussion circles, celebrations, and volunteer opportunities that are coming up in February. Many of these events repeat each month, so you can always catch the next one if you're snowed in this time around!



Circle of Song

Thursday, February 2 at 7m

The purpose of Circle of Song is to get together as friends and sing just for the fun of it. Some people like to sing, but don't feel that choir performance is the thing for them. We'll sing a few hymns, a few folk songs, and whatever songs people request. With Sondra Bolte's guitar to help us, and Louise at piano for songs that are not guitar-friendly we can sing most any song you can think of.

Sunday Service Team Meeting

Friday, February 3 at 10:30 am

Members of our Sunday Service Team will gather to discuss and organize the exciting upcoming services for this month.

Candle Night Celebration & Snow Moon Party

Saturday, February 4 at 5 pm

All are welcome to join us for fun, food, and cozy activities to celebrate Winter. While the adults are celebrating together in the ritual space, Brittany will be leading the kids with a Snow Moon story and craft. Each child will receive their own quartz crystal and create Lunar Journey Wand to collect treasures from future nature walks. After the story and crafts, we will talk about how humans and animals stay warm and safe during the winter while making bird feeders and building a GIANT BLANKET FORT! Afterwards, the blankets will be donated to Anchor House of Seymour, IN. There will be snacks, lights, pillows, and everything that the kids need to hibernate in their winter burrow.

Raising Unitarian Universalists & Book Swap

Sunday, February 5 at 11:30 am

Join us in the library from 11:30-12:30pm, childcare provided. We are hosting a book swap in Fellowship Hall that morning. Now would be a great time to sort through your collection for children and adult books that you would like to bring next Sunday morning. Anyone is welcome to take books home regardless if you bring books to share.

UUCCI PROGRAMS (CONTINUED)

Our Whole Lives (OWL)

Sunday, February 5 at 4:00 pm

Our Whole Lives (OWL) is a comprehensive, holistic sexuality education for grades 7-9. For more information, contact Sunny Currier at youth@uucci.org

Chalice Circle

Wednesday, February 8 at 10:00 am

For the coming year the Chalice Circle will meet on the second Wednesday of each month (beginning October 12) from 10 to 12 noon in the UUCCI Library. Chalice Circles gives participants an opportunity to get to know others while developing a deeper self-knowledge by sharing their lives in small, facilitated groups. The spirit of community radiates outward, fostering a sense of kinship and increasing connection to the congregation as a whole and to the larger community.

Inside Out Family Movie Night

Friday, February 10 at 6:00 pm

All Ages are invited to join us for Pizza Dinner and a Movie! We will gather to watch the Pixar film, Inside Out. Pizza Dinner and Popcorn will provided for those who RSVP by February 8th. Feel free to bring your own blankets and pillows to make yourselves comfy for the movie. RSVP via email children@uucci.org

Second Sunday Forum

Sunday, February 12 at 11:30 am

Please join us for more exploration and conversation as we delve into topics connected to recent sermons and the upcoming sabbatical workshops. Each Forum will be at 11:15am in the Elsie Weekly Room. Look for more detailed descriptions for each Forum in the Friday Reminder leading up to it.

Crone Wisdom Circle

Sunday, February 12 at 12:45 pm

Are you a UUCCI woman over 50? Interested in exploring this landscape of aging in a supportive context? Curious about what a crone wisdom circle might offer you and other women? Join us and connect with other crones as we create a new circle opportunity here in the UUCCI community. Questions? Contact Lori - loriswanson.cmt@gmail.com or Nancy nlolson572@gmail.com.

Spiritual Living Circle

Monday, February 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. For more information, please contact Mary Harmon or Anita Naanes.

Pastoral Care Team Meeting

Wednesday, February 15 at 2:00 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.

Board Meeting

Thursday, February 16 at 6:30 pm

The Board of Trustees meets on the second Thursday of the month in the Elsie Weekly Room.

UUCCI PROGRAMS (CONTINUED)

UUCCI Global Action / UUSC Organizational Meeting

Sunday, February 19 at 11:30 am

All are welcome to join the Global Action Team in the library / Youth Room at 11:30am. The main focus of Global Action is UUCCI supporting the Katalie Orphanage in Kenya which our congregation has been involved with for over a decade. We also support an adult literacy program in Haiti.

Our Whole Lives (OWL)

Sunday, February 19 at 4:00 pm

Our Whole Lives (OWL) is a comprehensive, holistic sexuality education for grades 7-9. For more information, contact Sunny Currier at youth@uucci.org

Building & Grounds Team Meeting

Wednesday, February 22 at 5:00 pm

If you're wanting to volunteer, this is a great place to start! If you are interested in joining the Building and Grounds team or lending a hand, please contact Donna Stanley at dstan52@frontier.com, Jon Fischer at farmbrewer@gmail.com, or Michael Greven at mgecosourceinc@gmail.com

Crone Wisdom Circle via Zoom

Thursday, February 23 at 7:00 pm

Are you a UUCCI woman over 50? Interested in exploring this landscape of aging in a supportive context? Curious about what a crone wisdom circle might offer you and other women? Join us by Zoom and connect with other crones as we create a new circle opportunity here in the UUCCI community.

Questions? Contact Lori - loriswanson.cmt@gmail.com or Nancy nlolson572@gmail.com.

Join Zoom Meeting at the link below
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9866716184>
Meeting ID: 986 671 6184

An Evening With Scott Russell Sanders

Friday, February 24 at 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Tonight, we kick off a weekend of fun and reflection. Join us as we explore the beauty of Indiana (yes, really) and learn more about embracing the land we live on through its history, geographical features, and culture

Where Are We And Where Are We Going?

Saturday, February 25 at 8:00 am - 2:00 pm

Interactive workshops, art projects, and more! This event offers a wide range of activities to help you connect to the local land and the community you share it with.

Spirit Of Place Service

Sunday, February 26 at 10:00 am

End the weekend in celebration of fellowship and friends! On this last day of this special weekend, we gather for fun activities, readings from Scott Russell Sanders, and finish with a congregational Lunch together

Find "Your People"

Are you wanting to get involved and meet new people, but aren't sure where to start? No problem! Reach out to our admin Brittany Phillips at admin@uucci.org to learn more about events and groups that you might enjoy.

COLUMBUS INTERFAITH

Columbus Interfaith Campus is a space where many different spiritual communities come together to celebrate and support each other. Here are a few of the events being hosted this month by the communities we share our campus with.



Columbus Interfaith Meeting

Wednesday, February 8 at 6:00 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.



Interfaith Campus Committee Meeting

Wednesday, February 8 at 7:00 pm

Each month, the UUCCI Building & Grounds Team will meet with representatives of Sri Ganesh Mandir to discuss our shared space, shared expenses, and projects that we can initiate to build better relationships between our communities and local neighbors.



Red Tent Womens Circle: Becoming Your Own Best Friend

Friday, February 17 at 6:30 pm

This month, we will explore how we can practice compassion for ourselves. Join us for love and support, great food, and some fun activities to build a loving relationship with yourself.



Open Mind Zen - Group Meditation

Sunday, February 19 at 2:00 pm

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.

COLUMBUS INTERFAITH


LUNAR CELEBRATIONS

In this new year, there will be celebrations each month based around the lunar cycle! Full Moon celebrations will be on or near the full moon and Red Tent Womens Circles on or near the New Moon.

Each Full Moon, Tree of Knowledge Coven will be hosting a Full Moon Party for the kids in our community. We will be sharing stories, activities, crafts, and lore themed around each lunar cycle. These activities are great for young nature lovers of all faiths! This months Full Moon Party will take place during our Candle Night Celebration.

These activities are based on the Full Moon Club by Wilder Child. This is a great resource if you have children that are nature lovers. You can learn more or follow along by enrolling [here](#) to have a Moon Party at home, or join us each month to party with friends! Below are some examples of activities that we will be doing at the Wolf Moon Party in January.

POPCORN SNOWBALLS ● SNOWFLAKE ART NATURE WALK ● FOLLOW ALONG STORY CONSTELLATION ART ● YARN CRAFTS JOURNEY STICKS FOR NATURE WALKS



SNOW MOON

CYCLE DATES
January 21 - February 19

FULL SNOW MOON
February 5

UUCCI KIDS MOON CLUB



LUNAR ACT

LUNAR JOURNEY WAND

Journey wands (often called journey sticks) are visual and emotional representations of nature walks. There are some sources that link this tradition to the Aboriginal people of Australia. The function of these sticks is to help record and hold the memory of your family's adventures!

WHAT YOU NEED

- One stick about a foot long and one inch thick
- Hot glue (optional)
- Knife (optional)
- Yarn
- Rubber bands
- Beads
- Acrylic paint
- Crystal or stone*

LUNAR ART INSTRUCTIONS

There is no right way to make these, the important thing is that you have fun and have the kids make it their own. I've included a few steps below if you're interested in making this rainbow version.

1. Double over your widest yarn and wrap it around the stick, pulling the end through the loop.
2. Slide the knot on and secure.
3. Repeat steps 1 & 2 with the rest of the colors of the rainbow (Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Purple, and Black).
4. Attach crystal or stone to the top of the stick. I make a lot of different wands in all the colors, but feel free to make the best!

USING YOUR JOURNEY WAND

Before your hike, wrap the stick with string or rubber bands. Talk to your kids about the purpose of a journey wand. As they are walking, they should look for natural items that spark joy or curiosity. Encourage them to secure those items on their journey wand by slipping them under the rubber bands or yarn in the order the child collects it, with the first item found going on the very top. After your walk, have a conversation together about your journey wands and share the memory of your adventures!

FLASHBACK FOR FAMILIES

This past year, we have had so many amazing events for children and families thanks to our Children's Ministry Coordinator, Adrienne Summerlot and other wonderful volunteers. If you would like to receive reminders about upcoming events for families, you can join the [RUU's Facebook group](#) or send an email to children@uucci.org to join the family mailing list!



RSVP'S ARE OPEN!

If you are a UUCCI member or dear friend, this message is for you.

UUCCI was awarded a generous Lilly Clergy Renewal Grant, allowing us to explore our congregation's and Rev. Nic's respective roots. We'll be nurturing ourselves to move on with intention and love into the next phase of our shared ministry. We don't want you to miss out on these free-to-you events. So mark your calendars and RSVP. Space is limited.

What to expect:

- Friday nights are designed to introduce each segment of our Roots exploration.
- Saturday workshops will be interactive, focused on deepening our connections to one another, to UUCCI, and to prepare us for what lies ahead.
- Sunday services as always open to the community. No RSVP's required and it would be a great time to invite friends

More specifically:

February 24-26

Scott Russel Sanders's weekend focuses on Spirit of Place. Scott is a perennial UU favorite speaker.

March 24-26

The Power of Stories features Rev. Sarah Gettie McNeil and Rev. Darrick facilitating The Power of Storytelling .

April 28-30

Ever popular Carrie Newcomer kicks off her weekend sharing Friday evening with Scott Russell Sanders. Carrie will continue helping us with a Map of a Journey in Process at the Saturday workshop and Sunday service.

We have designed this Sabbatical for YOU. Don't be disappointed that you were unable to experience these opportunities for growth and renewal because you didn't register. Please act now. You'll find RSVP links in the Friday reminders, monthly Newsletters, and the Spring Program Guide. You'll also have a change to register in person after Sunday services..

Sabbatical Team Chair
Cate Hyatt

Refreshments, childcare, and children's programming will be provided. Our kids will learn and play as we do, exploring maps, stories, nature, and our beautiful UUCCI grounds. RSVPs are encouraged and appreciated for catering and planning of weekend events. Childcare and children's programming will only be provided if RSVPs are received by February 19.

COMING FEBRUARY 2023

Spirit of Place

Guest Speaker

SCOTT RUSSELL SANDERS

SABBATICAL SPOTLIGHT

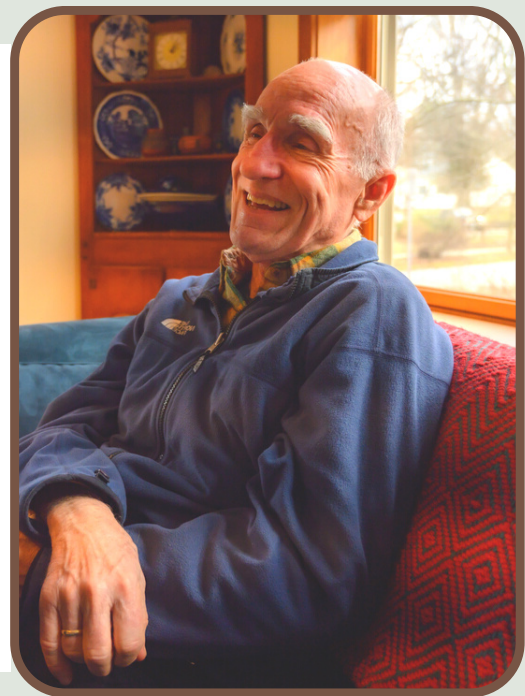
This month, we will launch the first of three special weekends that feature guest speakers, workshops, congregational projects, and more!

Meet The Speaker

“

Home is not where you have to go but where you want to go; nor is it a place where you are sullenly admitted, but rather where you are welcomed – by the people, the walls, the tiles on the floor, the followers beside the door, the play of life, the very grass.”

”



Scott Russell Sanders

**American novelist
and essayist**



Don't miss the opportunity to spend time with award-winning author Scott Russell Sanders. Author of *Wilderness Plots*, *The Conservationist Manifesto*, *Divine Animal*, and 17 other books, and known around Indiana for his story-telling skills, Scott has appeared previously at UUCCI in concerts and Sunday services. After reading Dr. Sanders' essay collection *Staying Put*, Rev. Nic was inspired to make its ideas the focus of his upcoming sabbatical, and to invite Sanders to conduct a weekend retreat for UUCCI in February. Learn more at scottrussellsanders.com

AN EVENING WITH SCOTT RUSSELL SANDERS
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH PROGRAM
7PM-8PM

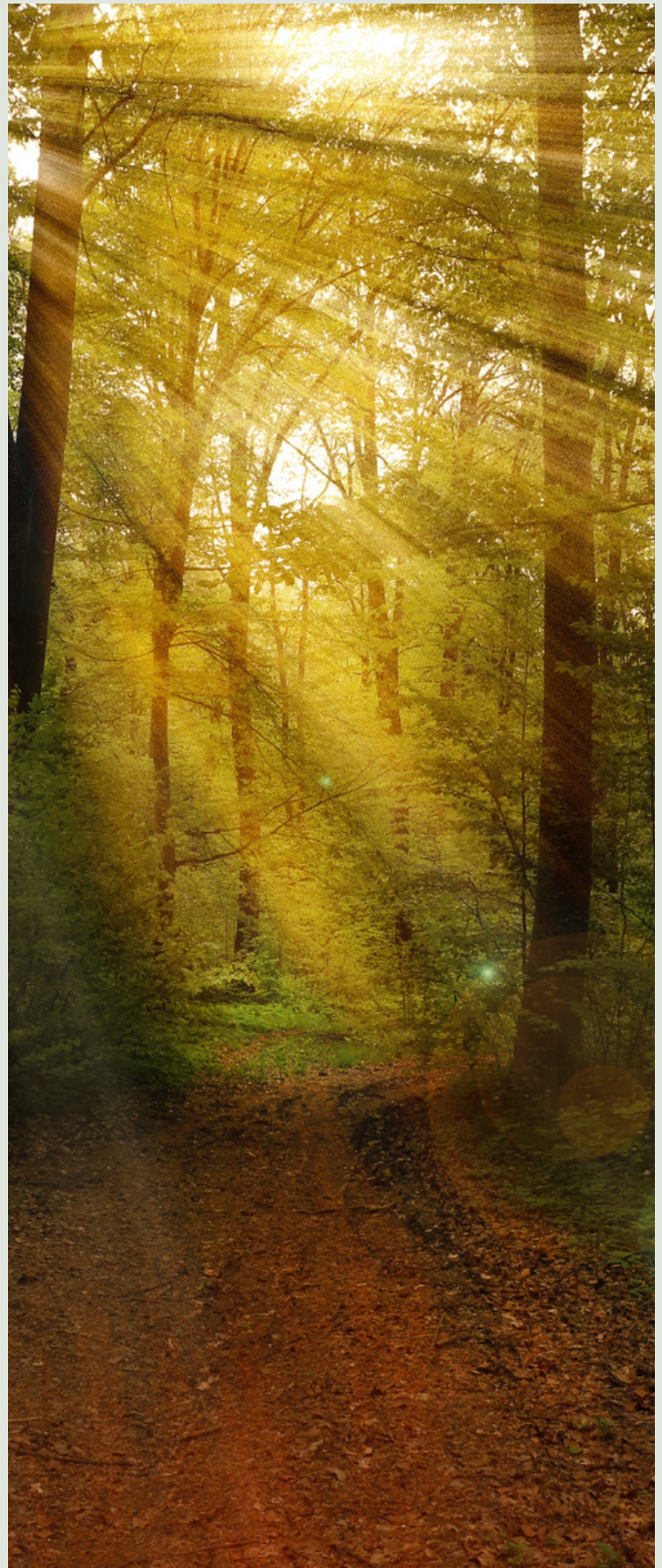
Tonight, we kick off a weekend of fun and reflection. Join us as we explore the beauty of Indiana (yes, really) and learn more about embracing the land we live on through its history, geographical features, and culture.

WHERE ARE WE AND WHERE ARE WE GOING?
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH WORKSHOP
FROM 9AM - 2PM

Interactive workshops, art projects, and more! This event offers a wide range of activities to help you connect to the local land and the community you share it with.

SPIRIT OF PLACE
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH SERVICE
FROM 10AM - 2PM

End the weekend in celebration of fellowship and friends! On this last day, we gather for fun activities, readings from Scott Russell Sanders, and finish with a congregational Lunch together.



**WANT TO SEE
YOUR WRITINGS
OR EVENT INFO
IN THE NEXT
NEWSLETTER?**



SACRED STORIES

Spring is just around the corner, and the Earth is waking up around us. This is a great time to enjoy stirrings of inspirations. We would love to share your art! This newsletter is a place to share the voices and reflections of our congregation, as well as exciting news. We invite you to share any reflections, poetry, or writings you want to include. Please send your submissions to admin@uucci.org by February 15th, 2023 to see them featured in the March issue of our newsletter. Here are some ideas for inspiration:

- EVENT INFO ● SEASONAL REFLECTION
- SPRING RECIPES ● HOLIDAY INFO
- POETRY OR MUSINGS ● ART TO SHARE
- PHOTOS FROM RECENT GATHERINGS
- SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS