

DECEMBER 2023 ISSUE

UUCCI NEWSLETTER

**FLAWED MUSIC,
BEAUTIFUL MEMORIES**
BY LOUISE HILLERY

**IMAGINE
2030**

**Special Events
Each Week!**

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SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday Mornings at 10 am

DEC 3 *The Power of Love: Shifting Liberal Religious Power towards Liberatory Ends*

With Rev. Nic Cable & Liz Nolan-Greven

This summer, Rev. Cecilia Kingman offered the 203rd Annual Berry Street Essay on the shifting theological and practical uses of power in Unitarian Universalism. Are there limitations to a liberal religious understanding of power (e.g. freedom) and would a shift toward a more liberationist view of power (e.g. love) be a better path? For this year's auction sermon, purchased by the Barnards, Rev. Nic will offer a vision of power that can lead us toward a future, where love is returned to the center of our shared faith.

DEC 10 *I Wonder as I Wander: Annual Question Box Sermon*

With Rev. Nic Cable & Cynthia Scott

Every year, Rev. Nic leads a service that includes the mysterious Question Box. Those in attendance can submit any questions they want about subjects ranging from theology, history, ethics, politics, and personal curiosities, which Rev. Nic will collect during the service and answer during his sermon. So bring your wonderings as we wander through our wandering questions together in community.

DEC 17 *Strike the Harp and Join the Chorus: Holiday Sing-A-Long Celebration*

With Rev. Nic Cable & Lesley Reuter

After a few years, the Holiday Sing-A-Long is back! Get ready for some carol singing, jingle bell ringing, and merry cheer flinging at this service for all ages. Wear your favorite holiday sweater, feel free to go ALL out. It should be a meaningful time to hear the songs that have shaped the imagination and wonder of this time of year for generations.



DEC 24 *Away in a Manger (Morning Service at 10 am)*

With Adrienne Summerlot

This worship is an interactive no rehearsal Christmas Pageant designed for families with young children and for those young at heart. Filled with music, singing, and opportunities to move we will share in telling the nativity story. What shall we bring? - a stuffed animal or doll to put in the manger and share with the babies and other children - a plate of NUT FREE cookies to share after service. What shall we do? This is a no rehearsal pageant! We will help lead you in saying any lines when it is time in the service. Specific age groups are invited to come dressed for parts and to become familiar with a few lines. These ages are just suggestions, if your child feels called to play a certain role assigned to a different age group, that is fine! See the roles in the Children & Families section on page 12

DEC 17 *One More Redeemer: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7 pm*

With Rev. Nic Cable & Chris Kevitt

Christmas Eve is a time of wonder and loving anticipation for what is to come. Unitarian Universalists have long let go of a belief of Jesus as the literal son of God and savior of the world. What has often replaced this idea is the idea that we are all filled with the spark of divinity and each one has the ability to bring love into the world. During this candlelight service, we will listen to beautiful music and also hold a child dedication for one of the youngest among us.

LETTER FROM THE MINISTER

DEAR ONES,

The holidays are upon us and with them come the constant barrage of tasks, gatherings, and stress. I am grateful for the Sunday Service Team members who put on the service this past Sunday, November 26, titled “Em-Bracing (for) the Holidays”. It’s not just a clever title. What was lifted up by members of the congregation is the tension between the holidays being a special time or holy-days and a stressful slog to the end of the year when we might feel wholly-dazed. [insert groan here]

But whether you are feeling the jubilation of the season or the ear worm of The Little Drummer Boy, know this: what matters during the holidays is that we are not alone or at least we need not go it alone. The overly commercialized holidays paint such an unattainable and perhaps undesirable vision of what it means to fully experience this time of year. I believe in the midst of all of what we are supposed to be doing, we lose sight of how are values guide our living in both ordinary and extraordinary times. Said differently, we run the risk of missing the holidays, when we misplace our gaze upon things which are not central to our lives. So what is central to your life as we enter December? Take a moment to really pause and think about what you hold dear, what you wish to hold closer, and with whom you hope to spend some time together in the weeks ahead. Is there a friend or family member you have been meaning to reach out to? Is there a task you have been putting off that if completed now could free up your heart to more deeply be present during these holidays? Take some time and really hold in your mind and heart that which you value, to those values which hold you in return.

Friends, time can feel distorted and out of control during this season. What is true is that time is out of control. What we are in control of is our perception, our consciousness, our focus, and our breathing. Breathe into these seconds, minutes, hours, and days ahead. Know that you are not alone, that you are a part of a loving community at UUCCI, and that this season can surprise you in beautiful ways.

I look forward to seeing you throughout the month on Sundays and on other days of the week in which we gather. We have great Sunday Services planned, lots of music, fun for all ages, a sweet baby dedication on Christmas Eve, and a chance to go through the holidays together.

What a gift that word is to us: together.

With Gratitude,



REV. NIC CABLE
UUCCI Minister

SPLINTERS

FROM THE BOARD

Many thanks to those of you who have submitted your 2024 Operating Pledges. If you have not yet submitted your pledge, we hope that you will do so in the next few days.

In the December meeting, the Board will be assessing if the congregation can proceed with planned programs and activities based on pledge returns. If there is a shortfall, the Board will make necessary adjustments to the budget to operate within the expected income levels but we are optimistic that this step will not be necessary.

December is also the month that intensive planning occurs to transition new Board members, which this year, are not only Board members, but Board officers too, Vice President-Cynthia Scott, Treasurer- Brandy Wills and Secretary-Nicole Wilttrout. January will be a busy month as the entire

board has a refresher on governance and jumps into the yearlong process to lead the congregation in the creation of new Ends through the Imagine 2030 initiative.

On behalf of the Board, I wish you a joyous holiday season, experiencing the magic and mystery of this special time of year.

Sincerely,

Linda Iwamuro
Board President

Flawed Music, Beautiful Memories

By Louise Hillery, Lead Pianist and Music Coordinator

Have you clicked on the link called Hymn Preview in the recent Friday Reminders? Choir members and videographer Jeff Jones have put a lot of hours into recording our most often used hymns, so that you can be familiar with them before you come to a service.

If you have watched some of these preview videos, you may notice quite a difference in quality. We have learned through trial and error what works or doesn't work. One thing that doesn't work is recording in an empty parking garage on a windy Sunday afternoon.

However, when the people who made those videos see them again, we don't remember the roar of the vent motors and passing motorcyclists. We don't remember the hassle of carrying our hymnals and equipment into the garage and setting up, or the wind that whipped our hair and our pages. We don't notice the missed notes or fumbled words.

We remember how it felt to see each other in person after over a year of Covid isolation, after never singing with another person, because singing is a notoriously dangerous spreader of the virus. There were hugs and tears and absolute joy at being together.

And we remember the young couple, out for a Sunday afternoon walk, because meeting indoors was still dangerous. They heard us singing and climbed the stairs of the parking garage until they found us. And they sat quietly huddled together against the wind on the steps at a safe distance. They applauded every song and told us how beautiful it was to hear church music again.

THROUGH TWO EYES: APPRECIATING THE AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY OF INDIANAPOLIS

By Cynthia Scott

On September 9 of this year, several members of our UUCI Racial Justice Team (and friends) went on a two-hour walking tour of Indiana Avenue in downtown Indianapolis. The tour guide, Sampson Levington, has been offering this eye-opening cultural experience since the summer of 2020. He takes his gaggle of walkers through the neighborhood that was once a cultural hub of African American businesses situated close to the homes of black and biracial residents. The walk helped us see what we normally would have missed if driving in a car. We learned about the history behind buildings that were spared when most of the neighborhood was destroyed to make space for new interstate highway construction in the 1970s.

Radio WTHR spoke with Sampson in 2020. “There is no record of Indianapolis as a city without African Americans here,” Levington said. “We’ve always been here; we are always going to be here. So, it’s cool to celebrate where we once lived.” Sampson showed us historic photos of the neighborhood so we could understand the changes we were observing. He helped us appreciate the cultural events and the popular jazz boom that took place there during and after the Harlem Renaissance, which was not limited to New York. Famous musicians from all over the country would come together for concerts and jam sessions.



The places I most remember from the tour are the Madam C. J. Walker building, the Kurt Vonnegut Museum, the AME church that is now occupied and preserved by Hilton Hotels, and the now-beautiful canal walk. We learned that the canal was originally a swampy smelly place separating black neighborhoods from the wealthier commercial parts of Indianapolis. It was regarded like the “other side of the (RR) tracks” commonly seen in towns across the Midwest and Southern states.

The tour was well-planned and structured, even down to safety issues at street crossings. Mr. Levington had a friend helping to ensure our safety by following stragglers and shepherding us in the right direction. We had no problem hearing the tour narration; Sampson had a portable mic. I would recommend this tour to anyone interested in African American history in Indianapolis. You can find out more about it on their website [Sampson Levington | Through2Eyes | Indiana](#)





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@uucci.org



DECEMBER NEWS FOR FAMILIES



Ornament Making and Cookie Decorating Party

Sunday December 10th 11:30am- 1:30pm
Fellowship Hall & Makerspace



NOVEMBER NEWS FOR FAMILIES

PARENTS MORNING OUT

We want to support UUCCI Parents and Caregivers during this busy time of year. Take a few moments to yourself, catch up with a friend, run errands, etc.



ACTIVITIES :

- ✓ Games
- ✓ Stories
- ✓ Crafts
- ✓ Pizza Lunch

SCAN ME!



REGISTER BY
DECEMBER 17TH

Friday, December 22nd from 10am- 1pm at UUCCI

Parent Morning Out -- Friday, December 22 from 10 am - 1 pm

We want to support UUCCI Parents and Caregivers during this busy time of year. Take a few moments to yourself, catch up with a friend, run errands, etc. [Click Here To Register](#) before December 17th.



All Ages Christmas Service

Sunday
December 24th

10 am

Away in a Manger

This worship is an interactive *no rehearsal* Christmas Pageant designed for families with young children and for those young at heart. Filled with music, singing, and opportunities to move we will share in telling the nativity story.

What shall we bring?

- a stuffed animal or doll to put in the manger and share with the babies and other children
- a plate of NUT FREE cookies to share after service.

What shall we do?

This is a no rehearsal pageant! We will help lead them in saying any lines when it is time in the service. Specific age groups are invited to come dressed for parts and to become familiar with a few lines. These ages are just suggestions, if your child feels called to play a certain role assigned to a different age group, that is fine!

Questions? Contact Adrienne Summerlot children@uucci.org



infant - 4 year olds - Angels - Wear halos perhaps made of aluminum foil and whatever else you feel makes you angelic.

Practice saying, "Oh, what a wonderful child" and "Peace to all people on earth!"



5-7 year olds - Shepherds - Wear shepherd head covering like a piece of fabric tied with some type of rope or tie and whatever would protect you from the sun and elements if you were a shepherd.

Practice saying, "Let's go look for that baby" and "Oh, what a beautiful child!"

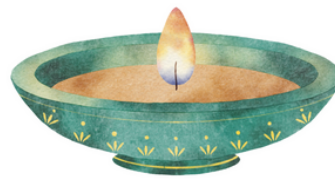


8-10 year olds - Wise Ones- Wear crowns and other wise-one like garb.

Practice saying, "Look at that amazing star! It must be shining for something very special!" and "This child will be our teacher."



11 years old and up - Inn Keepers- Please let Marianne know if a youth or adult in your family can help in this way, you will need to arrive a little early to help hand out candles and programs. You could also have a speaking role as one of the four innkeepers in the service.



Holiday Market



SHOPPING & SOUP LUNCH



2 December 2023
Open 9am - 3 pm



**at Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Columbus, IN**
7850 W. Goeller Blvd. Columbus, IN

**ARTISAN
VENDORS**

**COOKIE
WALK**

**HOMEMADE
SOUPS**

**EVERY CHILD
EMPORIUM**

**BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY
FOR FOOD, FUN, AND
FESTIVE GIFTS!**



Fun For All Ages!

Winter Solstice Celebration

December 21st

Join us for a family-friendly celebration! Enjoy a social hour with food, friends, and fun before a community ritual, lantern walk through the labyrinth, and stories around the fire. Best of all, child care will be provided!

6-8 pm

All Are Welcome!

@ UUCCI

7850 W Goeller Blvd,
Columbus, IN 47201

Hosted by Tree of Knowledge
Community Coven
&
Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Columbus, IN

The Mitten Tree

donations of new and gently
used hats
gloves
scarves
socks
for Love Chapel's
homeless shelter.



donations accepted through December 24th



ALL AGES NEW YEAR'S




31 DECEMBER
11:30-2PM

party

BRING A SNACK TO SHARE

COUNTDOWNS TO 2024
AT 12PM, 1PM & 2PM

CRAFTS
GAMES
MUSIC



For More Info:
Contact Adrienne
children@uucci.org



**More and more UUs
are going meat-free.**

**Less Meat
=
Less Heat**

Please join us: for the planet,
for your health,
for food justice,
for the animals.

It's time.

Message Sponsors: Unitarian Universalist Animal Ministry - uuam.org
President's Advisory Committee on Ethical Eating - ethicaleating.uua.org
Join the discussion: tinyurl.com/aqets8k

UUCCI PROGRAMS

DECEMBER 2023

Holiday Market -- Saturday, December 2 from 9 am - 3 pm

All are invited to the exciting return of our Holiday Market on December 2nd. The holiday market is a wonderful congregational event that is heartwarming and fun for all ages. It's a different way for our community to come together. We really love the holiday market. It's fun. It's festive. There are interesting things to look at and buy. There are some terrific-tasting soups and treats. It's kid-friendly. Mostly what we love about it is it's a different way for our community to join together and to share with the wider Columbus community. The holiday market generates goodwill. There is a way for everyone in our congregation to participate.

IRaising Unitarian Universalists - Imagine 2030 -- Sunday, December 3 from 11:30 am - 12:30 pm

You are all invited to a special one-hour visioning session hosted by the Board of Trustees. There are two options to add your voice to what will help shape what we are calling "Imagine 2030". Please join us after service on EITHER Sunday, December 3 or December 10 from 11:30am — 12:30pm in the Sanctuary. Whether you have been attending for decades or just starting to get involved we hope you feel most welcome to come and be a part of this important process. Childcare will be available for both days.

Band Practice -- Sunday, December 3 at 1 pm

Meet in the Elsie Weekly room for band practice after Sunday service.

Pastoral Care Team Meeting Wednesday, December 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.

Christmas Eve Choir Rehearsals -- Wednesday, December 6 at 6 pm

Join Louise Hillery to rehearse for this rehearsal in the Sanctuary

IMAGINE 2030 -- Sunday, December 10 from 11:30 am - 12:30 pm

You are all invited to a special one-hour visioning session hosted by the Board of Trustees. There are two options to add your voice to what will help shape what we are calling "Imagine 2030". Please join us after service on EITHER Sunday, December 3 or December 10 from 11:30am — 12:30pm in the Sanctuary. Whether you have been attending for decades or just starting to get involved we hope you feel most welcome to come and be a part of this important process. Childcare will be available for both days.

Band Practice -- Sunday, December 10 at 11:30 am

Meet in the Elsie Weekly room for band practice after Sunday service.

UUCCI PROGRAMS

DECEMBER 2023

Spiritual Living Circle -- Monday, December 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, December 13 at 6 pm

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

Womens Chalice Circle - Thursday, December 14 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

Hearts and Hands Craft Circle -- Thursday, December 14 at 6:30pm

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

Choir Practice -- Wednesday, December 20 at 6 pm

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

Winter Solstice -- Thursday, December 21 at 6 pm

Join us for a celebration of the first day of Winter! This event is open to all and will have activities for the young and young at heart including a Pitch-in Dinner (nut-free), Community Ritual, Lantern Walk, Fireside Stories, and Crafts!

Parent Morning Out -- Friday, December 22 from 10 am - 1 pm

We want to support UUCCI Parents and Caregivers during this busy time of year. Take a few moments to yourself, catch up with a friend, run errands, etc. [Click Here To Register](#) before December 17th.

Building & Grounds Team Meeting Wednesday, December 27 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, December 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

COLUMBUS INTERFAITH

EVENTS AT UUCI INTERFAITH CAMPUS

Red Tent Womens Circle
Friday, December 8 at 5 pm
Hosted by Tree of Knowledge Coven
Ages 10+

Each month, we gather to heal and celebrate each other. These circles are open to all women, fem-friends, and nonbinary folks that would like to explore and embrace their sacred feminine energy. December marks the one year anniversary of our Red Tent Women's Circle beginning! Please join us for a special anniversary celebration to let go of the past and embrace the new year. We are so blessed to have such a supportive circle of friends. Starting in the new year, we will be welcoming a new friend to organize the Red Tent gatherings for the next six months: Stacya May.

Group Meditation and Dharma Talk at UUCI

Sunday, December 10 and 24 at 2 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
Monday, December 11 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.

Hearts and Hands Craft Circle
Saturday, December 14 at 6:30pm

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