

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbus, IN

UUCI NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2025 ISSUE



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Sunday Services

03

Letter From Our Minister

04

Shavings From The Board

06

Music at UUCCI

07

Children & Youth

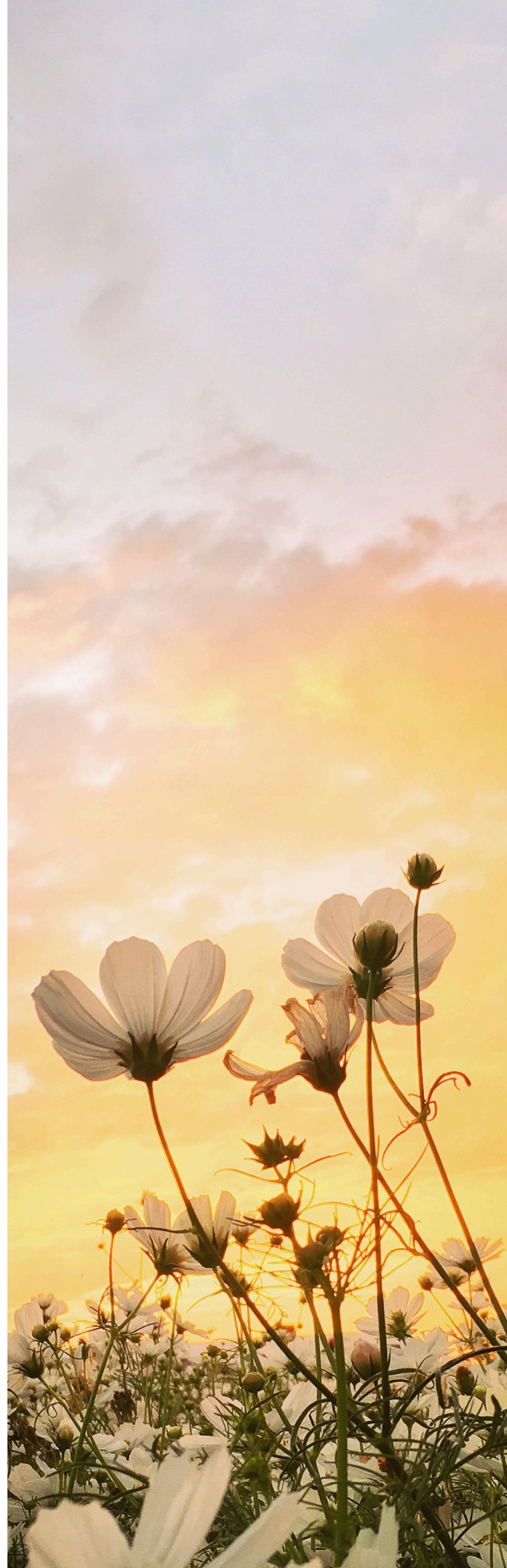
08

UUCCI Events

11

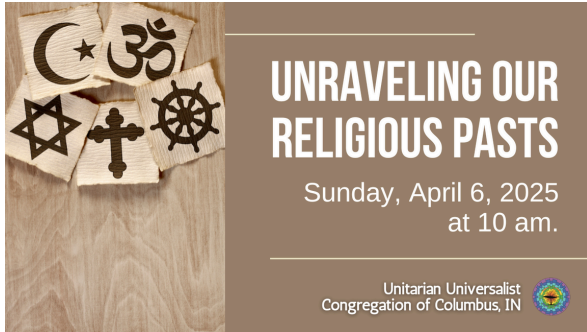
Interfaith Events

13



SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday Mornings at 10 am



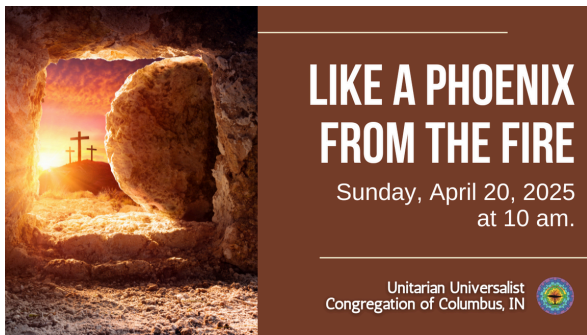
Unraveling Our Religious Pasts Sunday, April 6, 2025

Most Unitarian Universalists today came to identify as such after a variety of experiences in different religious communities. Because of this multitude of identities, past and present, there is an inherent "pluralism" within each of us. Addressing our religious pasts and the journeys we have taken to this point in our lives is necessary to not only reconcile any unresolved feelings or conflicts from the past, but also make possible a constructive and meaningful journey on the path ahead.



The Storm is Passing Over Sunday, April 13, 2025

In Judaism, the holiday of Passover commemorates the liberation of the Hebrew community from slavery in Egypt. In the face of modern struggle, this ancient, timeless story can offer insight for our continued movement through the storms of life. Rev. Nic will explore its lasting message for each of us in our extremely polarized and conflicted world today.



Like a Phoenix from the Fire Sunday, April 20, 2025

While the vast majority of Unitarian Universalists may not identify as Christian today, most were once involved one way or another with the Christian tradition. UUism likewise as a religion has historical roots in the liberal edge of the Christian reformation. With the personal and religious changes that have unfolded, how do UUs relate today to the Christian tradition? On Easter Sunday, Rev. Nic will reflect on the lasting meaning, worth, and connection to this holiday and the broader tradition of Christianity today.



Weaving Our Religious Futures Sunday, April 27, 2025

Throughout April, we are discussing the importance of looking at our religious journeys in light of where we are today and where we hope to go tomorrow. Whether one identifies as "Unitarian Universalist" or not, the reality is we are each in a continuous state of reformation of what we believe, how we live, and with whom we choose to spend our time with on this earth. As we weave our religious futures as UUs, Rev. Nic will end this series with an articulation of the importance of lifelong learning, growing, and sharing about who we are, what we love, and how we live together in this life.

All are welcome to join us for Sunday services at 10 am.

After service, there will be coffee and refreshments in the Fellowship Hall

LETTER FROM THE MINISTER

DEAR BELOVEDS,

The following is excerpted from one of Rev. Nic's reports to the Board of Trustees at their March Board Meeting.

The developments related to our fourth strategic objective—We Build Interfaith Community—are numerous and important to articulate for the benefit and direction of the Board. First, in March, we held our fifth consecutive monthly Columbus Interfaith Dinner. Beginning with the night after the election, this monthly gathering is an opportunity for communal gathering, eating, and learning together across our religious diversity on and beyond the interfaith campus. More specifically, it facilitates a central practice of our interfaith pedagogy, namely that there is an inherent pluralism within each heart, between two or more people within the same congregation, among two or more congregations, and in society at large. Thus, wherever two or more are gathered an interfaith encounter and engaged pluralism is possible. The incubation of this program benefits not only our work of fostering interfaith community, but also our internal connection and learning (SO-2) and vitality and growth (SO-3). As I've said to staff and key lay leaders, it matters that we take each monthly gathering as a gift worthy of celebrating for who is there and start from that place. Rather than focusing on who is not there, we foster a character of abundance and gratitude, recognizing that, to paraphrase Adrienne Maree Brown, "there is a conversation in the room that only these people at this time can have. Find it!" Or said differently, there is always a transformative moment, a liberating possibility available anytime anyone gathers in community. Our work is to help foster that transformation and liberation.

So the first update is that this nascent program continues to root in the late winter earth, seeking a refulgent spring. If you have not been able to attend, please consider coming in April and bring your friends. This is a monthly opportunity to experience community, UU and interfaith, in a deeper, more nourishing way than we may in other settings. In addition to the normalizing of interfaith encounter on at least a monthly basis, another important development regarding the overarching structure of our interfaith community is unfolding. Namely, we have relaunched the Columbus Interfaith Steering Committee, which unlike the CI Program and Campus Committees, is focused on the larger, less operational and more strategic direction of our interfaith community's vision. In this work, the SC is concerned with the limitations and possibilities of our current use and unfolding plans for the Columbus Interfaith Campus.

Co-owned by UUCCI and HSSI, the CIC has been in development for over a decade. When I arrived in 2017, plans were well underway to consider how the campus could accommodate a Hindu Temple, additional religious facilities built-to-suit to support other religious communities, including a multipurpose facility that would facilitate our separate and interdependent lives together, and last but not least, expanded parking and unified landscaping plans to create a beautiful and connective experience for all those who come to the campus. Monthly meetings were held prior to my arrival and continued through 2019. I identify this as Phase 1 which resulted in a lot of alignment, shared identity and vision work, and congregational engagement.

Phase 2 began with the pandemic which shifted all of our focus to our collective wellbeing. During this time our relational work rather than structural and campus planning became the priority. I could speak more to this but for length I'll share that this importantly centered the people at a time when that was very necessary. A result of this led to a paradoxical time of campus development wherein we were not meeting extensively as a steering committee to plan the next phases yet at the same time the Sri Ganesh Mandir was built and dedicated. I'd define that phases running approximately till last summer when Phase 3 began emergently with the prospect of acquiring the "North Property" off of 525 W. What became an intensive few months of discernment made clear that two questions were outstanding. The first is that UUCCI had been interrupted by the pandemic in determining its physical needs. A thorough building-use study was undertaken led by Bud Herron in 2019. A second iteration was started in 2024 just prior to the "North Property" development.





The second discernment that was brought to light through the possible property expansion was regarding the future of our interfaith campus and overarching partnerships. We know that like Goldilocks, the details just didn't work out for that property (at least right now). But in the wake of that opportunity coming and going, leaders from both UUCI and HSSI committed to continued conversations about alternative options for addressing our individual and collective physical limitations and likewise ensuring our individual and collective vitality.

Over the past few months a Steering Committee consisting of UUCI and HSSI leaders have met monthly after the Columbus Interfaith Dinner to determine next steps. Phase 3 feels very much like the next iteration of Phase 1 with the critical shared relational experiences of Phase 2. As such, the work is less theoretical and very practical about conceiving, planning, and executing the physical projects that could serve our respective and collective existence on the interfaith campus. At our last meeting, I experienced at energy, enthusiasm, and dare I say hopefulness about the future as we discussed the next developmental stages of the campus itself. In the face of such polarization and despair in our world today, we discussed the possibility of building an interfaith multipurpose community center that could not only be utilitarian but also inspiring a wider movement and sense of community in our city and region. The priority focus from our conversation last week was whether we are moving with some level of confidence that our next shared challenge is a joint, multipurpose building project and capital campaign. The feeling in the room was one of unison affirmation.

As you might imagine there are a hundred steps in the process from here to whatever the future outcome(s) looks like. One step that would be helpful is for the Board to give feedback to ensure our delegation to the Steering Committee is on the right track. As a reminder the Board has recently created a Property Committee which has two working groups: 1) B&G Working Group that focuses on B&G related activities (this is a recent realignment from ministry side to governance), and 2) Interfaith Campus Working Group which is where our delegation came to be. Essentially, we would like to continue onward knowing that there will need to be a lot of communication back to the board and of course with the congregation to ensure we are moving at the speed of trust and that we are incorporating the wisdom and feedback, excitement and concerns of the congregation along the way. With our delegation including the President, VP, and Treasurer (along with myself and Rhonda Fischer), I feel confident we have a good connection with the Board for ongoing communication. With this said, we wonder what questions, reactions, concerns, or ideas you have for us. Our next meeting is Wednesday, April 9.

With Gratitude,

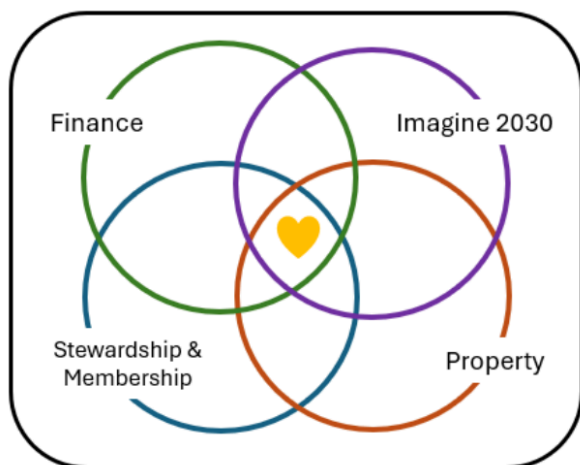
REV. NIC CABLE

UUCI Minister

SHAVINGS FROM THE BOARD

Members of the Board of Trustees are reminded how much our various activities and assignments are intertwined. Even though each of us is ideally assigned to only two committees, focus areas overlap.

For example, when the Finance Committee talks about future capital expenses, they depend upon the Property Committee for certain details. The Finance Committee also has an important connection to the Stewardship and Membership Committee. And Finance impacts the strategic objectives described by the Imagine 2030 committee.



Keeping in mind that “Love is at the Center,” we are sharing information across these committees and considering how our actions will impact you, our beloved congregation. As we reach out to you from time to time for information that will help our planning, it becomes clear again and again that ALL of us are truly interconnected.

As our committee members reach out to congregation team leaders for information, please help us as much as possible and in a timely manner so that we can carry out our assignments on your behalf. Those we may be contacting could include the Chalice Circle, Choir, Courageous Action sub-groups, Care Team, Building & Grounds, Environmental Action team, UU-Youth, and Welcome team. (I apologize if I forgot other players who can contribute.)



RA shout out and big THANK YOU to the 19 UUs who were seen (by me) attending and/or volunteering at Empty Bowls on March 15. Ask these members about their experience:

Sondra, Mark, Gail, Tony, Barry, Kathleen, Dick, Marty, Linda, Sandy, Judy, Steve, Dennis, Lissa, Greg, Skye, Cathy, Mary and Tom S.

Maybe you will be convinced to join them next year. It is a worthy effort to support several food pantries in our area.

Cynthia Scott
President, Board of Trustees

Music at UUCCI: _____

A RARE OPPORTUNITY

By Louise Hillery

We - all of us - will have a rare opportunity on April 19: to participate (or just listen to) a Sing-Along Messiah with Asbury United Methodist Church and the Columbus Indiana Philharmonic, for the benefit of Love Chapel.

Messiah is one of the first large-scale musical works - and one of the best choral works ever - written for dramatic performance by a choir. As Italian opera declined in popularity, composer George Frederick Handel began writing oratorios - large dramatic works for singers and choirs that told stories without costuming or scenery.

Charles Jennens, a wealthy landowner who dabbled in literature and drama, put together the text and sent it to Handel.

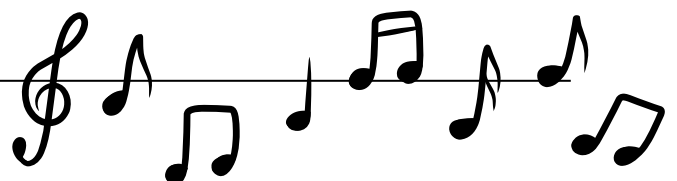
- Act I: prophecies from the book of Isaiah and Gospel accounts of the birth of Jesus of Nazareth.
- Act II: texts from the Gospel of Luke about the crucifixion and death of Jesus.
- Act III thoughts about judgment and resurrection from the letters of Paul.

Many people think of Messiah as Christmas music, but the famous Hallelujah Chorus comes at the end of Act II, after the death, in praise of the deity.

In a 55-minute performance, thirteen highlights of the oratorio will be performed by the orchestra, soloists, and audience. You can be part of the chorus - singing six choruses with the choir - music provided with admission. Or you can just sit in the middle of the singing audience and experience this monumental work of art from within.

All \$25 donations will go directly to Love Chapel, due to grants and gifts paying the expenses.
www.columbuslovechapel.com

April 2025





CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY

**Adrienne
Summerlot**



Children's Ministry Coordinator
children@uucci.org

Seedling and Sprouts (infants-preschool) meet every Sunday in the Earth Room with our caregivers to meet new friends, share stories, sing, and play!

Lego bUUilders (Kindergarten-5th grade)- we gather in the makerspace to explore our UU Values together.

April 6- Pluralism: We are inspired by many sources of beauty and hope

April 13- Compassion and Kindness: What we say and do matters.

April 27- Interdependence: We are all connected to one another



Sunday, April 20th All Ages Learning

We will all spend our time together exploring activities to increase our knowledge of being good stewards of the Earth.

May the 4th happens to be on a Sunday this year, so why not have an all ages service with a Star Wars theme? How can we imagine love as a force to be reckoned with, remember the power of alliances, and gain confidence in the triumphs of good over evil.

If you would like to be involved in service planning or activities after service please contact Adrienne or click the Learn More button to the right.





Our tweens and teens need their own space together to play games, explore spiritual and religious topics, cultivate fellowship and engage in social justice projects. UUTH meet regularly in their room, aka the library. When UUTH group doesn't meet they are always welcome to join kids in the Makerspace or attend service. We are committed to fostering leadership opportunities for them.



We meet on Sunday mornings after the Wonderbox in the youth room for fun, friends, and fellowship!




April 6th- Discover how Split the Plate works at UUCI. We will research organizations doing good work in Columbus and nominate a few groups for all the children and youth to vote on Easter Sunday!

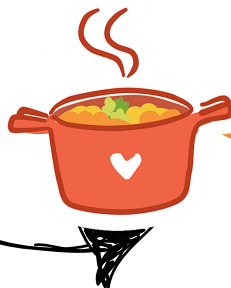
April 13th- Help make posters for the Split the plate groups- Bring your creative energy!

April 20th- All Ages Learning- Earth Day Fun!

April 27th- TBD with Sunny



Join us to help serve community in need!



Hot Meals
Fridays from 4-6pm at
First Presbyterian
April 11th

Contact Sunny Currier
Youth Coordinator
youth@uucci.org





AGING IN PLACE: THE TOOLS YOU NEED

SUNDAY APRIL 6TH, 11:30A

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CONGREGATION OF COLUMBUS**

MODIFY



ALI STEARNS

learn what
modifications
can be made
to your home



ORGANIZE



CHERYL SMITH

learn how to
organize and
declutter your
home



ASSIST



HEATHER MEANS

learn about
options for
assistance in
your home



PLAN



ELIZABETH JAMES

learn how to
establish a plan
for aging and
what legal
documents to
have in order

Voelz, Reed, & Mount, LLC
knowledge · experience · solutions

UUCCI PROGRAMS

APRIL 2025

Pastoral Care Team Meeting

Wednesday, April 2 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

Choir Practice

Wednesday, April 2 at 7 pm

For more information, contact Louise at music@uucci.org.

Death Cafe

Thursday, April 3 at 2 pm

Come visit our Death Cafe April 3. Our focus will be on Green Burials, Cremation and Funeral Home services. We will have representatives from each of these options speaking to our group, followed by our usual discussion of death and dying, as it relates to these presentations. And of course, we will have cake. Co-facilitators are Cate Hyatt, Sandy McCoy and Sondra Bolte

Special thanks to our guests:

- Anna Jacobson from Green Burials
- Keith Boback from Dignity, 25th st is funeral homes
- Donna Zenthofer from Neptune.

Women's Group Lunch Gathering

Tuesday, April 8th noon.

Lunch at BCSC Courtyard at Columbus North High School. \$15 per person. Reservations are required. For more information and to reserve your spot email Carol Kostrzewsky at ckostrze@iu.edu.

Choir Practice

Wednesday, April 9 at 7 pm

For more information, contact Louise at music@uucci.org.

Women's Chalice Circle

Thursday, April 10 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. Please contact Sharon Mangas for more info at docmangas@comcast.net

Hot Meals At First Presbyterian

Friday, April 11.

Help your fellow UUCCI-ers serve a Hot Meal on Friday, April 11. You can help by cooking, or purchasing, or serving or doing dishes and clean-up. We usually meet to cook between 3 and 4 p.m. The meal is served at 5 p.m. and we are usually ready to head home by 6. Contact Cathy Caldie at 812-552-9612 or cathycaldie28@gmail.com for information.

Environmental Action Team

Sunday, April 13th at 11:30 am

Come check out the array of electric lawn care items that are available to combat climate change. Switching to electric reduces emissions, lowers noise levels, has easier maintenance, and makes being green a more convenient option for homeowners. They are lighter and easier to maneuver. No gas cost or spills, no clutch, throttle, belts, gears or toxic fumes compared to gas counterparts. Become more sustainable and improve air quality. Come learn about how you can make a big difference for our environment with your lawn care choices.

UUCCI PROGRAMS

APRIL 2025

Hymnody discussions

Sunday, April 13 at 11:30 am

Hymn Talks explores and debates our favorite or not-so-favorite hymns in one-hour Sunday discussion sessions. Contact Louise at music@uucci.org. Childcare provided!

Spiritual Living Circle

Monday, April 14 at 11:30 am

Spiritual Living Circle meets the 2nd Monday of each month from 11:30 am until 1:00 pm 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.

Women's Group Monthly meeting

Tuesday, April 15th

We will meet at 6:00 pm at the UUCCI Fellowship Hall and start with a baked potato bar. The potatoes will be provided. Please bring a topping or two to add to the selection. Liz Cleland will lead us on a magical mystery tour of the UUCCI building and grounds. There may be things you don't know about our space; it's history and the meaning and intent that went into a lot of the planning for our spiritual home. Dress for the weather (we'll skip the outside part if it's inclement). Please RSVP to Carol Kostrzewsky ckostrze@iu.edu if you are coming and let her know what topping for the potato bar you will be bringing. All are welcome!

Band Practice

Wednesday, April 16 at 5:30 pm

For more information, contact Louise at music@uucci.org.

Choir Practice

Wednesday, April 16 at 7 pm

For more information, contact Louise at music@uucci.org.

Local / Global Action Meeting

Sunday, April 20 at 11:30 am

For more information, contact Louise at music@uucci.org.

May Day Celebration

Sunday, April 27 at 11:30 am

Join us around the May Pole for music, dancing, crafts, and fun for all ages

Band Practice

Wednesday, April 30 at 7 pm

For more information, contact Louise at music@uucci.org.



COLUMBUS INTERFAITH

EVENTS AT UCCI INTERFAITH CAMPUS

We had a fantastic gathering of folks in March to learn and share about Spiritual Practices. We hope that in addition to sharing the information for our April and May Wednesday evening dinner and learning events in your broad communications like Facebook, Newsletters, Family emails, etc. that you personally will consider inviting 2-4 folks to join you. More than ever, it is important for people to gather together in community!

Here are the details about our next 2 gatherings:

**Columbus Interfaith
Dinner & Learning**
Wednesday, April 9th
6pm- Pitch In Dinner
7pm- Community Learning & Conversation
This month we spend our time gathered to focus on our shared responsibility to be stewards of the Earth



Join us on the
Columbus Interfaith Campus at
7850 W. Goeller Blvd
Columbus, IN 47201





Wednesday, April 9th

Columbus Interfaith Dinner and Learning

6pm- Pitch In Dinner

7pm- Community Learning and Conversation
Weather permitting, we hope to have the option to eat outside and explore the grounds together. This month, we spend our time gathered to focus on our shared responsibility to be stewards of the Earth.

[Link to Columbus Interfaith Facebook Event](#)

**Columbus Interfaith
Dinner & Learning**
Wednesday, May 14th
6pm- Pitch In Dinner
7pm- Community Learning & Conversation
This month we spend our time together shining light on mental health awareness and how we as a community can respond, connect, and support initiatives and share resources.



Join us on the
Columbus Interfaith Campus at
7850 W. Goeller Blvd
Columbus, IN 47201



Wednesday, May 14th

Columbus Interfaith Dinner and Learning

6pm- Pitch In Dinner

7pm- Community Learning and Conversation
This month, we spend our time together shining light on mental health awareness and how we can respond, connect, and support initiatives and share resources.

[Link to Columbus Interfaith Facebook Event](#)