



NEWS & NOTES

a whole-hearted community, feeding body, mind, and spirit

December 24, 2021

www.hinsdaleunitarian.org

Theme: Healing



UCH COMMUNITY CALENDAR

December 24 - January 2, 2022

Friday, Dec 24

4:00pm [Virtual Christmas Eve Service](#)

Sunday, December 26

No Worship service - visit [Our YouTube channel](#) for past services.

Tuesday, December 28

3:00pm Wise Elders Gathering

Saturday, Dec 25

Merry Christmas!!!

Monday, December 27

7:00pm Buddhist Meditation

Sunday, January 2, 2022

10:30am Worship Service

CARING CORNER

The ripples of our lives touch those around us. We keep in mind all of our members and friends...

- We send love and care to Cherita Axel in the tragic loss of her sister, Latisia Turner, from Covid. Latisia leaves a heart-broken family trying to raise funds for her funeral. You can support them [here](#). Cards for Cherita can be sent to 804 W Cathy Ln Mt Prospect, IL 60056
- Remember those folks who have lost loved ones this year. Keeping them in mind, inviting them to events, sending texts and cards all help to let them know we still care.



Please let us know of folks we should add to our list and share with our Caring Circle Coordinators by emailing [Pam Fodor](#) or [Rev Pam](#). Also email [Cherita](#) to be included in N&Ns.

GRATITUDE

Note from Cathy Blanford:

The loss of my sister has been devastating but the support from my church family has been more helpful than I can say. In these difficult times, I am increasingly aware of what it means to be a part of a loving, caring community and to, together, treasure each and every moment of our lives. Thank you to each and everyone of you who reached out by card, phone call, or text to let me know that you care.



UPCOMING VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICE Friday, December 24th at 4:00pm

Christmas Eve at Unitarian Church of Hinsdale

You're invited to join us for a quiet evening of music and verse.

We're looking for Christmas – for the star, for the love, for the hope.



join us.

Friday, Dec 24th at 4:00pm: Christmas Eve: Looking for Christmas

For the second year now we approach the holidays and wonder how it will work? Life has been challenging for eons though and our ancient stories often give us the tools we need to see that light and feel the love that always surrounds us. Join us for a quiet service, finding light and hope in our community. The service will be shared on [YouTube](#).

Sunday, Dec 26th: No Worship Service - visit our Youtube channel for past services.

UCH Christmas Eve Service Virtual Only

*In the spirit of loving care for our community we will be moving
the Christmas Eve service to online only.*

Community spread has accelerated significantly in our communities and the Omicron variant is highly transmissible. This was brought home when we found out that a member of last Sunday's worship team tested positive for Covid. We understand that this is a late change in plans and we are saddened to not be physically together but when we weigh the safety of our community in the balance we believe this is the loving response.

We will make a decision on January services in the coming week.

If you haven't already please get a booster shot and wear a mask in public at all times. This too shall pass and we look forward to being together as we have been.



You can view the Friday service live and recordings of past services on our YouTube channel.

THIS WEEK IN THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

All ages of RE will be taking a winter break.
We will be back in session on January 9th.
Enjoy your holidays!

For more information on RE programming, how to become involved, or on our Covid protocols please visit our website www.hinsdaleunitarian.org or contact Pam Fodor at re@hinsdaleunitarian.org



STYROFOAM RECYCLING

Collect your styrofoam from packaging and food containers. Please put the packaging and the food foam (no straws or lids) in separate bags. You can take it to Theater of Western Springs on Saturday, January 8, 9-noon, or bring it to church on Sunday, Jan. 2 (not sooner). There are some large bags in the RE vestibule you can use, but smaller plastic bags or paper bags with handles are OK, too; separating is most appreciated.



RACIAL EQUITY TEAM

Donations to Black-Led Food and Land Organizations Shift from Charitable Giving to True Reparations

<https://www.yesmagazine.org/social-justice/2021/02/18/reparations-black-led-food-land-organizations>

For more articles on Race Resources [please click this link](#).

SOCIAL JUSTICE COLLECTION - December

DuPage PADS The Solution to End Homelessness

The pandemic has forced all organizations, large and small, to make changes to the way they deliver services and maybe none more so than DuPage PADS. Before COVID, clients were housed at interim sites, mostly churches, throughout the county. When they were housed at Redeemer Lutheran here in Elmhurst, 30-40 members of our congregation would work together to house and feed up to 56 people. If you remember, we would set up pads



for up to 40 men to sleep together, head to head, on the floor of the Fellowship room. This model was impossible to maintain during the pandemic.

To accommodate their clients safely during the pandemic, DuPage PADS has rented rooms at three motels in Downers Grove and Naperville. They are currently providing housing for 264 clients, including 98 children, which is 114 more than they served pre-pandemic. This has been a very costly venture as they continue to provide other services to help their clients move from interim to permanent housing. Because clients live in one location rather than travel from site to site each day, PADS has seen a 500% increase in the use of the support services.

To consolidate housing, PADS has made the decision to purchase a motel in Downers Grove and turn it into the Interim Housing Center. Our congregation has taken turns delivering food to the Naperville Red Roof Inn. The food is pre-packaged. We deliver it to the motel and bag it, with a water bottle, fruit, and an individually packed snack. It takes only four of us to take the bags to the rooms where the PADS clients are living. We will have more opportunities to serve at PADS as conditions change.

You can donate all month by clicking the [donate button](#) on our website and choosing 'Social Justice' in the drop-down menu.

Update on the Recently Reunited Aurora Family Seeking Asylum

THANK YOU SO MUCH for your generous cash and winter clothing donations to this family. They have been so appreciative.

Remaining household and clothing items needed: TWIN BOX SPRING AND FRAME; MEN'S SNOW BOOTS (size 8 for the 8th-grade boy and size 9 for the dad); WOMEN'S SNOW BOOTS (size 8 for the 7th-grade girl and size 8 ½ for the mom). This month we are collecting PERSONAL CARE ITEMS (such as toothpaste, toilet paper, hand sanitizer, laundry soap) as well as Christmas presents for the family and VISA and WALMART GIFT CARDS. The children's Christmas wish lists include a basketball for the boy and a hairdryer or curling iron for the girl. The family has ongoing needs for financial support to cover rent, utilities, food, and miscellaneous. **Cash donations may be run through the church by writing a check with "Aurora family" in the memo.**

If you would like to join this effort, please contact Bonnie Wayman-Dodd or Marian Honel-Wilson. More info is in the November Touchstone.

Animal Ministry News



Animal Ministry Post Holiday Party January 6

Animal Ministry is hopeful about having a small gathering for a vegan potluck at the Schafers' in Darien the evening of January 6. Please RSVP to UCHAnimalMinistry@gmail.com by December 31 if you'd like to attend.

TIFF SCHAFER IS AN ATTORNEY FROM CHICAGO AND A LONGTIME ANIMAL ADVOCATE. SHE IS SECRETARY OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ANIMAL MINISTRY (UUAM) AND FOUNDER/CHAIR OF UNITARIAN CHURCH OF HINSDALE'S UUAM CHAPTER. SHE DRAFTED AND IMPLEMENTED A VEGAN MEAL OPTION POLICY AT HER CHURCH.



**FAITH IN FOOD:
ADOPTING EARTH-FRIENDLY PRACTICES
IN RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES**



Tiff Schafer is representing UCH and Unitarian Universalist Animal Ministry in a special conference on Faith in Food.

Industrial farming has a profound effect on earth's resources and the natural world. It produces enormous quantities of waste and pollution while threatening the health of workers and nearby residents and damaging ecosystems.

Faith in Food: Adopting Earth-Friendly Practices in Religious Communities will include perspectives from religious leaders who represent Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and Unitarian Universalist communities. The panelists will explore how religious communities can take action in solidarity with climate, farmed animal, and food justice advocates.

This will be a 90 minute zoom webinar, where the first 60 minutes is focused on learning from panelists and the last 30 are focused on Q&A from the audience. See our panel of experts below.

Program sponsored by the Better Food Foundation. [Register here.](#)

COVID UPDATE

We are sorry to inform you that our pianist, Jamie, tested positive for Covid after last Sunday's service. He's recovering at home and sleeping a lot but was vaccinated and boosted so we are hopeful he'll recover fully very soon.

For those of us who attended Sunday's service and particularly are preparing for holiday get-togethers, we offer the following information so that you can make choices that value the various communities and family members you interact with.

- Get tested and isolate immediately if experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.
- Wear a well fitting good quality mask anytime you are out in public.
- Get tested before your holiday gathering. The CDC recommends testing 5-7 days after exposure (which would be Friday Christmas Eve)
- For more information on the CDC's guidelines for vaccinated individuals with COVID-19 exposures, see here: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html#anchor_1617376555813

Note that while the PCR testing is most accurate, with the holiday upon us it is worth considering whether

you are likely to get results back before getting together with other people.

- Antigen testing can provide results quicker and serial testing can increase the accuracy of antigen testing . A good strategy for serial antigen testing in this case would be: test ~2 days before a gathering and immediately before the gathering

For more information on antigen tests (including instructions for home tests and serial testings)

see here: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/testing/self-testing.html#anchor_1638718975230

With everyone masked and vaccinated hopefully we will not have any serious illness but the Omicron variant is highly contagious and we want to do everything we can to protect ourselves and those around us.

Community News

Community Vaccination Clinic - Walk-Ins Welcome - [more info](#)

Small Group Ministry

Meet via Zoom on the first Saturday of each month from 9:30 to 11:00. The next meeting will be Saturday, Dec 4th.

Buddhist Meditation

Mondays meetings will be held virtually for the immediate future. We're currently reading and discussing the book **No-Nonsense Buddhism for Beginners** by *Noah Rasheta* instead of listening to a dharma talk after we meditate.

Wise Elders' Weekly Conversation, Tuesdays at 3 p.m.

Join the wise elders of our UCH community for wide-ranging conversations about life, memories, stories, and a dash of politics for fun. Use this [link](#) to join by video or join by phone.

Contact [Tracey Olson](#) for the phone number. - [more info](#)

UCH members and friends, are all invited to join in on one or more of our non-fiction book discussions via Zoom. While those attending are encouraged to read the books listed and described, readership is not a requirement for attendance. Check the Friday before News & Notes for the discussion and Zoom connection

- **Tuesday, Jan. 25, 7:30 p.m. *You Don't Belong Here*** by Elizabeth Becker. (2021) The author uses three women's works and lives to illuminate the Vietnam War from the 1965 American buildup, the expansion into Cambodia, and the American defeat and its aftermath. Arriving herself in the last years of the war, Becker writes as a historian and a witness of the times.

NEWS & ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

THE TOUCHSTONE
A monthly publication of the Unitarian Church of Hinsdale

Monthly Touchstone Needs Submissions

In-depth communication about all the great things going on at church. Get your news and articles in by the **8th of the month** to for publication on the 15th to UCHTouchstone@gmail.com

NEWS & NOTES

News & Notes Submissions should be sent to

Communication@hinsdaleunitarian.org.

All information for sharing with the wider communication can also go to socialmedia@hinsdaleunitarian.org. The old office email now mainly pertains to business scheduling concerns. Thanks!

Love Reading [Board Minutes](#)? You can find them on our website [here](#).

STAFF CONNECTIONS

Office Hours M-Th 10am - 2pm

You can reach us at our regular email addresses:

- Rev Pam, Onsite Tuesday & Sunday, Available - Tuesday thru Saturday 9 - 5 pm. Other times by appt. Monday Sabbath. **Minister@hinsdaleunitarian.org** 440-570-9812
- Pam Fodor, Monday and Wednesday 9:30-11:30 am Tuesday and Thursday 9:30 am-3:30 pm, Friday and Saturday off. Available on e-mail other days and times. - **re@hinsdaleunitarian.org**
- Cherita Axel, Social Media, working virtually - **Socialmedia@hinsdaleunitarian.org**
- John Cooperrider, Facility Manager, available Fridays - **grounds@hinsdaleunitarian.org**
- Julia Beckman, Music Director - **beckman110@comcast.net**
- Jamie Pastman, Music Coordinator - **music@hinsdaleunitarian.org**
- Jeffery Moseley, Bookkeeper - **Finance@hinsdaleunitarian.org**

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