



NEWS & NOTES

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

December 31, 2021

www.hinsdaleunitarian.org

Theme: Healing

January 2, 2022

Widening the Circle: Begin Again in Love

UCH COMMUNITY CALENDAR

January 2nd - 13th, 2022

Sunday, January 2, 2022
10:30am Worship Service

Thursday, January 6, 2022
8:30am Breakfast Group

Tuesday, January 11, 2022
3:00pm Wise Elders Gathering

Monday, January 3, 2022
7:00pm Buddhist Meditation

Saturday, January 8, 2022
10:00am Worship Associates Mtg

Wednesday, January 12, 2022
7:00pm Board of Trustees

Tuesday, January 4, 2022
3:00pm Wise Elders Gathering
7:00pm Prison Ministry

Sunday, January 9, 2022
10:30am Sunday Service
12:00pm Men's Group

Thursday, January 13, 2022
8:30am Breakfast Group
7:00pm Care Shawl Group

Wednesday, January 5, 2022
7:30pm Green Sanctuary Meeting

Monday, January 10, 2022
7:00pm Care Shawl Gathering
7:00pm Buddhist Meditation

CARING CORNER

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

- We continue to send love and care to Cherita Axel in the tragic loss of her sister, Latisia Turner, from Covid. Cherita's mother was also found the same day unresponsive in her apartment and has been hospitalized with Covid since the 19th. 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.



UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICE - ONLINE ONLY

January 2, 2022: Widening the Circle: Begin Again in Love

A new year; a new beginning. While looking at the merits and challenges of adding an 8th principle, we might also examine what else is missing in our faith home. What about forgiveness? Grace? A place to begin again? On this first Sunday of the year, let's find a way to acknowledge our shortcomings and begin again - together.

We will continue having Sunday services online only through the end of January. The service will be shared on [YouTube](#).



You can view the Sunday service live and recordings of past services on our [YouTube channel](#).



Click [HERE](#) to Join Virtual Coffee hour on Zoom after Worship.

We are now *Live* to the world, we so ask that when discussing Cares and Concerns during the candle lighting time, you use only first names to protect the privacy of those you are concerned about, unless you are announcing public information such as a death or a memorial service.

January 9, 2022: Rest, Renewal, Rebirth

What sustains you? What do you do to find that blessed space of renewal? At the beginning of a new year there is often a period of resolutions - many of which never stick. This year feels like Déjà Vu all over again. How might we approach it differently?

The service will be shared on [YouTube](#).

COVID UPDATE

Remote Services thru January

In the spirit of loving care for our community, we will continue having Sunday services **online only** through the end of January.

While it is hard to be apart, community spread continues to accelerate in our communities with the highly transmissible Omicron variant. In addition, we are aware of breakthrough infections among vaccinated members and the low availability of tests. While we are saddened to not be physically together, we feel that ensuring the safety of our community is the loving response.



We will continue to monitor the situation throughout January and hope to return to in-person services when case rates moderate and risks become clearer.

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.

In the meantime, know we wish you a blessed New Year's arrival and we hold out hope that 2022 will bring us a return to health and the blessings of community.

THIS WEEK IN THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

All ages of RE will be taking a winter break.
We will be back in session when in-person church resumes.
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



ANIMAL MINISTRIES

The Animal Ministry Post Holiday Party has been canceled due to current deteriorating pandemic conditions.

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

Jan 12, 2022 03:30 PM in Eastern Time (US and Canada)

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 animals, 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](#).

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



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

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 on Sunday by writing "PADS" in the memo line of your church or 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](#)

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THANK YOU SO MUCH for your generous donations to this family! We have visited them several times (including dropping off wrapped presents on 12/19) and they have been so appreciative. Thanks to the generosity of many, they now have the household and clothing items they need.

The family still has ongoing financial needs, as the process for getting work authorization is expected to take several more months. **To contribute, make a cash donation through the church by writing a check with "Aurora family" in the memo, or you may purchase VISA or WALMART GIFT CARDS directly.**

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

CURRENT 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!

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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