



# THE TOUCHSTONE

*A monthly publication of the Unitarian Church of Hinsdale*

June 2021

Monthly Newsletter

## Deepening Connections



### NEW BEGINNINGS AND GRATITUDE

The year of continual change, unexpected developments, and surprising pronouncements continues and we at church are doing our best to keep up with the changes. Believing that it would take a while to get back to normal, there was a plan to continue with virtual services over the summer and then return with a big celebration in September.

New equipment was purchased to enable live-streaming even while we gather in person and a plan was in the works to create a team of trained volunteers to make it happen.

And then – everything opened up. With vaccinated folks being able to gather unmasked these days, it seem unconscionable not to welcome folks back into the church very soon. But there's a catch. We don't want to lose our home-bound folks and have them feel bereft of their church community but the equipment and training is not yet in place.

So we'll be doing a modified zoom / in -person set up that won't be as pretty as we've gotten used to but will hopefully allow vaccinated folks to enjoy fellowship – especially our families! Pam Fodor is arranging childcare beginning June 13th.

All the details have not been completely worked out but suffice to say, we will begin to function as a church in real as well as virtual reality.

This has been a difficult year for so many of us. We have had to sit with ambiguity, trust a process that was never clear, navigate through misinformation, strong opinions, fear and anxiety. It has been amazing to watch the generosity of spirit and compassion with which so many of you have traversed these waters.

I am especially grateful to your leaders in the church. At a time of tremendous challenge, your board of trustees and circle coordinators have continued to show up and to bring their wisdom, expertise, compassion and faith, not to mention their time in many hours of meetings. Because of each of them, this church is in a strong position as we begin the new church year.

Thanks to Circle Coordinators Tracey Olson, Dave Lloyd, Thom Brackett, KC Edgin, & Megan Griffin. And thank you to Board Members Bob Daniel-Wayman, Darren Howard, Susan Mooney, Mike Pabian, Gene Schafer, David Mrazek and Suzanne Williams.

They represent an attitude of service and generosity not often seen in the world. I have been blessed to go through this pandemic year with them at the helm.



## Director of Programs News

### NATURE AND SPIRITUALITY

With so much time spent with technology, the National Wildlife Federation declares, "The nature of childhood has changed. There is not much nature in it." Getting outside in

nature has been found to reduce childhood obesity, boost classroom performance and spur imagination. New research reveals that nature also affects how children define spirituality.

A study, published in a recent issue of the Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture, found that children who spent time outside for five or ten hours a week said they felt spirituality connected to the earth and believed that it was their role to protect it. Research also uncovered the notion that those children who spent more time outdoors had a stronger sense of self-fulfillment and purpose compared to those who don't.



There is a Jewish tale of a rabbi who finds his son reading the Torah, while sitting in a tree. The father asks, "Son, don't you know that the wisdom of the Torah is the same, whether you are in the synagogue or in a tree?" The boy answers "Yes that is true, but I am different when I read it while sitting in a tree."

Keep your child's spiritual education going during the summer months! Get outside and have some fun.

Turn a walk in the forest preserve into a treasure hunt by making a check off list of things to find; such as an acorn, a big leaf, a little leaf, a duck foot print, etc. Be sure to take paper and some crayons to make bark rubbings! Or wear a nature bracelet — put duct tape, sticky side out around your wrist and see what you collect on your walk

If you take a walk around the block you live on you and your child can search for flowers in all the colors of the rainbow. Or take along paint sample sheets from the hardware store and see if you can match the colors.

Visit a zoo! We like Brookfield Zoo a lot but also check out the Cosley Zoo in Wheaton. It is much more manageable for smaller children and you can pet many of the farm animals.

## To Everything There Is A Season

Over the years UCH has accumulated stuff. A LOT of stuff. Some of that stuff has succumbed to time, and as Facilities Manager, I have stumbled across many things that are simply "taking up space" and "gathering dust." In preparation for the eventual fellowship that will follow the lifting of pandemic restrictions and our 151st Birthday celebration, we're cleaning house. Knowing full well that any item chosen for disposal might enjoy a repurposed life and/or may hold a special place in the heart of one of our members, we invite any church member to visit the church on Saturday, June 5th, from 9am - 4pm, or Sunday, June 6th, from 11am - 4pm, and look over what's been gathered. If you see something you want, take it. Anything left by the end of the day on Sunday will be hauled away the next morning. We cannot "hold" items for later pick-up, and kind of like the old bar saying goes: "You don't have to take it home, but it can't stay here." So... if you want (and we're not kidding) an institutional toilet for a front yard planter, a pair of rickety old ladders to be a metaphor for life in your latest artist's installation, or parts from the soon-to-be dismantled Head Start play area, pop on by the 5th or 6th! We'd love to give you these gems of UCH history so they can enjoy a NEW life somewhere else, maybe as SOMETHING else!



John Cooperrider

## Annual Meeting

**Sunday, June 6 following a shortened Worship Service at 10:00 am on Zoom**

Dear church members,

We will be holding our annual meeting virtually this year on June 6, 2021. We need your participation; at least 20% of our membership must attend this required annual meeting. We will be voting on two items:



1. 2021/2022 budget

## 2. Election of new church leaders

The meeting will be held via Zoom on June 6, 2021, immediately after the service, which will start at 10:00. You will be able to join the service and the meeting by clicking on the Zoom link provided for the service.

Copies of the budget, the slate of candidates for open positions, and the year-end reports from staff are available here:

<https://www.hinsdaleunitarian.org/annual-meeting1.html>

A limited number of copies are being mailed to members who cannot access the materials online.

Thank you all for your continued support and investment in our Church community

Bob Daniel-Wayman  
President of the Unitarian Church of Hinsdale,  
on behalf of the Board of Trustees

### Plans for Our Virtual Congregational Meeting

#### How we'll establish whether a quorum is present

As members join the Zoom meeting, we will see the screen names or phone numbers of everyone who signs in with the Meeting ID. A Board member will check those names and numbers against the membership roster to sign in church members in good standing. After the service is completed and members are counted, the Board will determine if a quorum is present, and if so, Bob will call the meeting to order. If other members join after the meeting starts, a Board member will continue counting members and report the total number of participants/members to the note taker.

#### How you'll be able to ask questions about the motion

After each agenda item has been introduced and discussion is open, Bob will ask if there are any questions or comments. Please indicate that you'd like to ask a question or make a comment by typing "question" or "comment" in the chat and we will use that order to ask you to unmute and ask your question or make a comment.

How you'll be able to ask other questions and/or raise parliamentary issues

Please use the chat feature to indicate if you have a parliamentary issue or if you are having technical issues. We will monitor the chat for these issues.

#### How you'll be able to vote

Voting on the main business: Only members in good standing may vote.

Use the chat feature to type in your yes or no vote. A Board member will tally the votes and report the results.

## Still Having a Dinner Party?

While 2019 seems shrouded in the mists of time, we vaguely recall a service auction where folks offered dinner parties and events to raise money for the church budget. Many if not most of these events were cancelled due to the pandemic.

Did you offer an event, but the date is long past? Do you have the list of folks who signed on? If you have all the info and want to set a new date – just let your guests know.

If it's a little fuzzier – we can be creative. We're looking ahead to a time when we can re-gather as vaccinated folks and begin strengthening ties and forming new ones. Holding the numerous dinners, luncheons and fabulous fun events is one way of getting our mojo back and beginning to feel like church again.

So – check your calendars. If you have an event that you'd like to offer next church year, send the information to Rev Pam or Pam Fodor. We'll create a database and share information as the year gets underway.

Thanks for your warm hospitality and generosity!

## Green Sanctuary Program Blooms in the Spring

Our Green Sanctuary committee has prepared an ambitious agenda for the whole congregation to participate in protecting and improving the environment, with four major components. Some of these steps we can take right away, while

we're social distancing; some we'll do when we all back together.

Our first effort is to Save butterflies and bees! Butterflies, bees, and other pollinators are under stress from chemical pesticides, disease, and loss of habitat. There is a nationwide campaign called Homegrown National Park that aims at providing millions of acres of habitat, a few square feet at a time. Green Sanctuary is making it easy to get started. We are distributing a Butterfly Weed plant to every church member and every household this spring. Butterfly weed, *Asclepias tuberosa*, is a beautiful, low-growing plant with bright orange flowers, and it's a host plant for the Monarch butterfly. You can plant it in any sunny spot—even if you have a porch and a planter, you can join in. Very soon, masked butterfly champions will visit your home—don't worry, we'll call or write first—with your own bit of orange sunshine. We're also making seeds of dill, marigold, and other nectar plants available for the asking.



And wait, there's more! Stay tuned to this space, the church's weekly News & Notes, and announcements at church, as all four initiatives unfold. Or join us at our meetings, the first Wednesday of every month; watch church media for Zoom instructions.

## Animal Ministry Recipe of the Month

Animal Ministry would like to share a new recipe every month for you to try! Kris Grady submitted this delicious recipe for Broccoli Soup, which a neighbor made for her. It also contains spinach, cilantro, and croutons. Animal Ministry bids a fond farewell to Kris and the Grady family. Kris was an original founding member of Animal Ministry, and her decade plus of contributions to the chapter (especially the Worldwide Vegan Bake Sale) and her tireless work for animals are greatly appreciated. We will miss her dearly. <https://www.purewow.com/recipes/broccoli-soup-spinach-cilantro-cROUTONS>



## June Worship

### June 6: The Business of Community

Join us for our annual celebration of all the great things which have happened this year at church - despite a pandemic and all the challenges it brought.

We will have an attenuated service and then your Board of Trustees will hold the Annual Church Meeting. This year will include voting on the 2021-22 Budget and voting in next year's officers. It's always a great time - join us! ~Rev Pam

### June 13: Infinite Mind

**On Site for Vaccinated People**  
We can see the world as a finite game, one in which we do anything to 'win'. Or we can understand ourselves within an ongoing infinite game where the goal is to keep the game healthy and alive for all participants. Author Simon Sinek talks about the way the finite mind has had a negative effect on so many businesses and organizations. How do we make sure we are acting from the best frame of mind? What

### June 20: Love's Response to a Worried World

**On Site for Vaccinated People**  
Fear can have strange effects on people. Sometimes the most loving and compassionate people forget, forget who they are and who they want to be when they become afraid. What can we do to create a world that loves abundantly and calms those cranky anxieties? I say "Love Wins" - will you join me? ~Rev Pam

### June 27: Special Event - GA Worship

**On Site for Vaccinated People. We will share the video from the chancel.**  
Join us for the largest annual gathering of UUs joining in worship. This powerful, communal worship experience **will stream on Sunday, June 27, 2021** at 10:00am. Members of the public are welcome to view the service.



Join us for Worship via  
[Zoom](#)



## YouTube

The service will be uploaded to **YouTube** by Tuesday morning. Past services are also available to watch on the church's Youtube Channel.

## Thrive with Pride Cafe Gatherings for LGBTQ+ Seniors

### JUNE 2021: BINGO!

It's Pride Month, and it's time to have some fun! Join Chicago's own Bearded Lady, Sofonda Booz, for a face-paced and fun hour of online bingo. There will be prizes! Click below to join the party on June 22 - BUT: If you would like to play along and win prizes, you must register. **Click here to register!**

Click **HERE** to join us via Zoom on June 22 at 11am.

You can also join by phone! Call (312)626-6799 and enter Meeting ID 966 6129 4106 when prompted.



**CLICK HERE TO GET YOUR BINGO CARD!**

## This Fall, Let's Sing Together

As the Director of the Celebration Singers for many, many years I can say that this past year was the hardest ever – because we could not get together and sing. I hope our church membership has missed us as much as we have missed you! We have valiantly recorded a few lovely virtual performances – my thanks to all who added to those pieces. But they are no substitute for singing with each other and sharing the lovely harmony! Things are looking very hopeful for us to gather this fall as we return to in person church. So far, the CDC guidelines say that fully vaccinated people may safely sing together. I will keep watching their website for any changes.



Please, if you ever sang in a school or church choir, if you can carry a tune and match a pitch, consider joining us. We rehearse on Sunday mornings but I'm willing to consider an evening time as well. We'll gather in mid to late August to socialize and rehearse a couple of our standards for the first official Sunday back on Sept 12.

More information to come in August. Questions? Contact me via email at [beckman110@comcast.net](mailto:beckman110@comcast.net) or by phone at 630-985-4688 or 630-605-7069. I look forward to seeing and hearing a large choir this fall!

## UPDATE: Scam Alert



They are still at it... Each month a new wave of emails go out asking folks to contact Rev Pam for an urgent matter.

**Do Not Respond!**

Your minister will never ask you to buy gift cards or make purchases of any kind. If in doubt of any communication, contact Rev Pam at [minister@hinsdaleunitarian.org](mailto:minister@hinsdaleunitarian.org).

All others are fake email addresses. Delete them.

## A Little Help From Your Friends...

The pandemic crisis has been going on for many long months now and even with an end in sight, many folks have been affected in ways great and small. If you are facing challenges right now, know that your church is here to help. An emergency relief fund exists at all times for church members experiencing financial difficulties.

Help with groceries, utilities or other unexpected events is available by contacting **Rev**



**Pam.** You are loved and cared for. If you are in trouble, let us know so we can help. That's what community is for!

## Who Should You Call?

January's Touchstone gave a detailed explanation of our new staffing structure and the reasons for change over the past year. Please read about it [here](#) if you still have questions. UCH is in a process of evolving to fit the changing needs and opportunities presented by the march of time. The chart below illustrates the staff member covering each area. You are always welcome to contact [Rev Pam](#) or [Pam Fodor](#) if you have questions.

Staff Member	Support Area	Contact information
<b>Rev Pam Rumancik</b>	Worship, Pastoral Care, Theological exploration, general support	minister@hinsdaleunitarian.org (440) 570-9812
<b>Pam Fodor</b>	Religious Education - All ages Membership, Caring Committee, Space Sharing / Events	re@hinsdaleunitarian.org (630) 323-2885 ext 110
<b>Lily Field</b>	Bookkeeping - Pledge reports, reimbursements	finance@hinsdaleunitarian.org (630) 323-2885
<b>John Cooperrider</b>	Heating/cooling issues, property maintenance	grounds@hinsdaleunitarian.org (630) 435-0164
<b>Cherita Axel</b>	Communications - articles for News & Notes and Touchstone, Press releases, Facebook events	communication@hinsdaleunitarian.org socialmedia@hinsdaleunitarian.org (224) 388-0957
<b>Jamie Pastman</b>	Musician, Worship Technology	music@hinsdaleunitarian.org (847) 651-4324
<b>Julia Beckman</b>	Choir Director - joining choir, ideas for musical events	choirdirector@hinsdaleunitarian.org (630) 605-7069

## Staff Info & On-Site Days:

Director of Programs	Pam Fodor - <a href="mailto:RE@hinsdaleunitarian.org">RE@hinsdaleunitarian.org</a>	Tuesday
Bookkeeper	Lily Field - <a href="mailto:Finance@hinsdaleunitarian.org">Finance@hinsdaleunitarian.org</a>	Wednesday
Minister	Rev Pam Rumancik - <a href="mailto:Minister@hinsdaleunitarian.org">Minister@hinsdaleunitarian.org</a>	Thursday - by Appt
Facilities Manager	John Cooperrider - <a href="mailto:Grounds@hinsdaleunitarian.org">Grounds@hinsdaleunitarian.org</a>	Friday - as needed
Choir Director	Julia Beckman - <a href="mailto:ChoirDirector@hinsdaleunitarian.org">ChoirDirector@hinsdaleunitarian.org</a>	
Music Facilitator	Jamie Pastman - <a href="mailto:Music@hinsdaleunitarian.org">Music@hinsdaleunitarian.org</a>	
Social Media Manager	Cherita Axel - <a href="mailto:Socialmedia@hinsdaleunitarian.org">Socialmedia@hinsdaleunitarian.org</a>	
News & Notes	<a href="mailto:Communication@hinsdaleunitarian.org">Communication@hinsdaleunitarian.org</a>	
Touchstone	<a href="mailto:uchtouchstone@gmail.com">uchtouchstone@gmail.com</a>	
Board President	Bob Daniel-Wayman - <a href="mailto:President@hinsdaleunitarian.org">President@hinsdaleunitarian.org</a>	



Our staff is continuing to work from home and the office will remain closed. As everyone is fully vaccinated we will reopen.

We look forward to the opportunity to be with you again soon!

