



NEWS & NOTES

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

October 29, 2021

Theme: Reverence



UCH COMMUNITY CALENDAR

October 31st - November 14th, 2021

Sunday, October 31
10:30 am Sunday Service

Thursday, November 4
8:30am Breakfast Group

Wednesday, November 10
7:00pm Board of Trustees

Monday, November 1
7:00pm Buddhist Meditation

Sunday, November 7
10:30am Sunday Service
12:00pm '13th' Movie Screening

Thursday, November 11
8:30am Breakfast Group
7:00pm Care Shawl Group

Tuesday, November 2
3:00pm Wise Elders Gathering
7:00pm Prison Ministry

Monday, November 8
7:00pm Buddhist Meditation

Saturday, November 13
10:00am Worship Assoc Mtg

Wednesday, November 3
7:30pm Green Sanctuary Meeting

Tuesday, November 9
3:00pm Wise Elders Gathering

Sunday, November 14
10:30am Sunday Service
11:45am Men's Group

CARING CORNER

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

- Love and prayers for Darren Howard's mom who will have back surgery this week. Also for Darren as he supports her and his family. Send him some love.
- 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.

GOOD NEWS & GRATITUDES



A big Thank You Suzanne Williams -Suzanne has served as a board of trustees member, helps organize the Green Sanctuary work, and always shows up. Most recently, she's taken on the job of helping the church figure out our technology jump into doing multi-platform worship. She's spent more hours than she probably wants to count figuring out how to get us livestreaming on a shoestring budget. She's also sitting with Alex most Sundays and has volunteered to support many of our memorials this year. Thank you Suzanne!

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICE

Hybrid Worship Continues - Vaccinations & Masks Required

All attendees must wear a mask and be vaccinated. We will continue to share the service on YouTube for at-risk people and those who would rather wait for now.

Sunday, October 31st: Boo! What Mask Will You Wear?

Rev Pam Rumancik (She/Theirs)

Halloween - or All Hallows Eve - falls on a Sunday this year. Since we're wearing masks anyway, might as well make it a fun one! Let's dress up as our favorite characters and examine the masks that we may have to wear in our everyday lives. When is it okay to be yourself and when do you need to hide? This will be a fun service celebrating our individuality, creativity, and bravery in a sometimes scary world. All vaccinated folks are welcome to join us in person with a mask. The service will also be shared on Zoom.



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.

Because we are now *live* to the world, we ask that when discussing Cares and Concerns live 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.

Sunday, November 7th: Widening the Circle: It's the Principle of the Thing

Rev Pam Rumancik (She/Theirs)

There's a great saying: If it ain't broke, don't fix it. I really wish those technology wizards would follow that advice and stop making me relearn new software systems every time I turn around; the old technology worked just fine for me. But – maybe it didn't work fine for somebody else. Unitarian Universalists have [7 principles](#) that we claim to live by. Recently, many of us have awakened to the fact that they don't work for all of us. An [8th principal](#) has been proposed to try and remedy that situation. How should we respond? What do we need to know? How can our original principles guide us? All vaccinated folks are welcome to join us in person with a mask. The service will also be shared on [YouTube](#).

MEMBERSHIP SIGNING & RECOGNITION

Membership Signing & Recognition Ceremony

Sunday, November 7 at 10:30 am

Whether you have been attending UCH for a while, have participated in one of our New UU classes, or if you feel you are personally ready to "sign the book" -- we encourage you

to join us.

Signing the Membership Book is an act of personal and public commitment to the life and work of our church and to the religious tradition in which we stand. We understand membership as a matter of covenant between people — a promise to stand together with other members of the congregation in a relationship of mutual respect and support, to take your own religious journey seriously in community with others, and to work together in commitment to a common vision.

If you want to be a part of the ceremony, contact Pam Fodor at 630-323-2885 or re@hinsdaleunitarian.org. Please let us know no later than November 2nd.

If you would like to join UCH but are unable to be here on November 7th or would prefer to sign the book in Rev Pam's office, please contact Pam Fodor to set up an appointment.

A FEW KIND FOLKS NEEDED!!!



Are you comfortable with Zoom and like to chat?

Then we have the perfect thing for you!

We are looking for a few people to host the Zoom coffee hour one Sunday a month. You will be provided training (although it is really simple) and can do it from church or

from home. For more information and to volunteer contact Pam Fodor re@hinsdaleunitarian.org or Darren Howard darrenhoward1981@hotmail.com

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

THIS WEEK IN THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM



**Join us on Halloween morning at 10:30am for a
Halloween Party!**

**Wear your costume and come to Joshi Chapel during RE time
for games, crafts, and fun.**

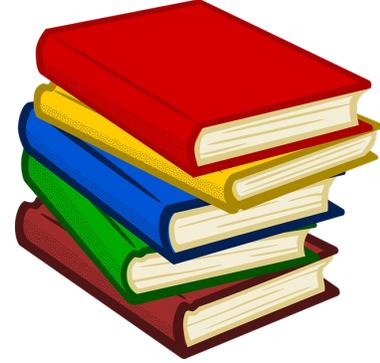
All ages invited!

THE GREAT UCH FREE BOOK EXCHANGE

The Book Exchange that you've been waiting for will take place on Sunday, November 14, after the church service, in the RE building. This is an in-person event because it's

really hard to transfer a book through Zoom. It's simple:
Bring books, pick up books. All free, no limits.

We are accepting books on Sunday, November 7, from 9:30 through 2:00. Drop off all those books you have been saving (by "books" we mean words on paper; no electronics, games, software) and we'll have them sorted by the morning of the 14th. On Sunday, November 14, come to church and bring a bag to pick up your choices. How easy! See you in church.



SUNDAY HOSPITALITY

We are grateful for this upcoming Sunday's Hospitality Team!
Thank you for helping to make our church home a caring, welcoming community

Team #8

Team Leader- Eric Haas

Diana Haas
Cathy Blanford
Lisa Heckler
Dan Speziale
Peter Krouwer
Joanne Krouwer
Jean Noble
Jennifer McCracken
Matthew Hane
Cyndi Robinson
Amira Boctor
Taylor Wolfram



CHICAGO AREA UU COUNCIL FALL CONFERENCE

CAUUC Fall 2021 Video Conference

Gathering and Strengthening Our UU Communities

Keynote presentation on navigating grief by
Elizabeth Harding followed by a panel discussion

Saturday, Nov 13, 2021 9:30am-NOON



Keynote Presenter: Elizabeth Harding

Affiliated Community Minister, Second Unitarian Church of Chicago

Elizabeth will offer a framework for understanding the first year of grief and some reflections on collective grief during this pandemic time. The presentation will highlight coping strategies, including ritual.



Panelists:



Elizabeth Harding
Affiliated Community
Minister
Second Unitarian



Dr. Mary Lamb Shelden
Director of Lifespan
Religious Education
Countryside Church UU



Suzanne Williams
Communications
Consultant
Member of Unitarian
Church of Hinsdale



Leah Mikkelson
Board President
Tree of Life Congregation



Shelby Daniel-Wayman
Epidemiologist
Member of Unitarian
Church of Hinsdale

Our panel will discuss the challenges faced in gathering our UU communities, creative solutions we've found, and opportunities discovered along the way.

[REGISTRATION LINK](#)

NEIGHBOR NIGHTS COMING THIS FALL TO AN AREA NEAR YOU!!

The Membership Committee is organizing the popular Neighbor Nights this fall for VACCINATED members and friends. Our congregation is spread across several communities and Neighbor Nights gives us an opportunity to get to know the members and friends who live close by.

We have hosts for a few areas but still need hosts for other areas. The host chooses the date, time, and type of event – brunch, lunch, coffee, dinner -- and invites members in their area (list will be provided). The events should be potlucks so the guests bring food and beverage to share. If you would like to host an event please contact Mary Getty (kikget@gmail.com)

Because some of the areas are small, this year we are combining some of them. These are the host areas:

1 & 3) Hinsdale, Clarendon Hills, Burr Ridge, Indian Head Park, Western Springs, Willow Springs – Steve and Athena Trout plan to host.

2) Willowbrook, Darien, Westmont – Sandy Buboltz and Karen McDowell to host

4) Elmhurst, Bensenville, Des Plaines, Roselle, Itasca, Schaumburg

5 & 6) Westchester, Brookfield, River Forest, Riverside, Chicago, Berwyn, LaGrange, LaGrange Park, Countryside, Hodgkins – Liz Reyes and Benjamin Van Horne hosted this event.

7 & 8) Downers Grove, Lombard, Oakbrook, Oakbrook Terrace, Villa Park, Woodridge, Plainfield, Romeoville, Shorewood, St. Charles, Glen Ellyn



Styrofoam recycling at Theater of Western Springs will be **Saturday, Nov. 6, from 9:00-noon**, but if you prefer to bring yours to the church, please wait to do so on Sunday, Oct. 31 (Halloween!).

What is the Pumpkin Smash?

The Pumpkin Smash is an annual effort by communities to divert pumpkins from landfills by providing locations for residents to drop-off jack-o-lanterns to be composted. It is held each year the Saturday after Halloween. Don't Trash it, Smash it!

SCARCE and the cities of Wheaton and Elmhurst hosted the first pumpkin collections in 2014, diverting 9.31 tons of pumpkins from landfills and helping to improve composting laws in Illinois.

By **2016 the Pumpkin Smash** grew to over 31 sites across the state.



Why keep pumpkins out of the landfill?

Composting is nature's way of recycling with many benefits:

- Avoids landfill greenhouse gas emissions from decomposing organics (currently, landfills are the 3rd largest producers of **methane** in the U.S.!)
- Produces a useful, nutrient-dense soil amendment
- Pumpkins are 90% water which is great for our soil, **not so good in our landfills**

Since 2014 the Pumpkin Smash has...

- Composted over 538 tons of pumpkins
- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 410 tons of CO₂e
- Diverted 34,230 gallons of water from landfills

Help Compost More Pumpkins - Get Involved

Find a pumpkin smash near you from the list below:

- Pumpkin Smash is 9-12 November 6
- St John of the Cross Catholic Church, 5005 Wolf Rd., Western Springs
- Hinsdale South High School, 7401 Clarendon Hills Rd., Darien
- Romeoville Lewis University, 1 University Parkway, Romeoville
- Downers Grove High School, 1436 Norfolk Ave, Downers Grove
- Lisle Village Hall, 925 Burlington, Lisle
- Village Green Park Garden Plots, 130 S Lambert Rd, Glen Ellyn
- LaGrange Public Works, 937 Barnsdale Rd, LaGrange (10-12)
- Roosevelt Middle School, 7560 Oak Ave., River Forest
- Bensenville Public Works, 717 E Jefferson St., Bensenville
- Elmhurst Public Works Facility, 985S. Riverside Dr., Elmhurst
- Lombard Common, East parking lot, 433 E. St. Charles Rd., Lombard
- Villa Park Village Hall, 205 Ardmore, Villa Park (in back)
- Westmont Library, 428 N. Cass Ave., Westmont

All decorations must be removed. Acrylic paint is OK.

Recycling Beyond Your “Blue Box”

There are many items that can't go into your Blue Box municipal recycling bins, but that doesn't mean they need to end up in a landfill. Our friends at SCARCE will take many items that you might not think to recycle.



They will recycle or reuse books, holiday lights, plastic bread tags, crayons, bicycle parts, keys, inkjet cartridges, cords, cosmetic containers, cables, office/school supplies and SO MUCH MORE!

For a full list of what items SCARCE will take and the procedures for donating, please check out the link below:

<https://www.scarce.org/accepted-items/>



Addressing the climate crisis can seem overwhelming. Sometimes we feel like whatever we do just won't be enough. Remember, seemingly small actions repeated over time can have a dramatic effect. For example, eating a plant-based Impossible burger instead of a cowburger requires eighty-seven percent less water, ninety-six percent less land, and production generates eighty-nine percent less greenhouse gas emissions. [Visit here](#) and

check out the Green Sanctuary Downloadable Resources section to read some top actions you can take to address the climate crisis. Another important action you can take this week is to send a note to Congress asking them to accelerate our transition to clean energy, reduce emissions and nature loss, and help keep our communities safer from extreme weather disasters. [Here is an easy way to do that.](#)

RACIAL EQUITY TEAM

The UCH Racial Equity Team is sponsoring a screening and discussion of the Emmy-award-winning documentary **13th** by Ava DuVernay. The film explains the connection between America's history of slavery and today's mass incarceration. The 13th Amendment abolished slavery but allowed an exception for incarcerated persons, thus providing an economic incentive for exploitation and mass incarceration of millions of Americans.

There are two opportunities to screen the film - IN-PERSON after the service on **Sunday, Nov. 7th starting at noon** (snacks provided), and VIRTUALLY on **Thursday, Nov. 18th starting at 6:30 p.m.** If you've already watched the film on Netflix, feel free to just come for the discussion. The link for the virtual screening is: <https://tinyurl.com/13thScreeningUCH>.



IN-PERSON SCREENING AND DISCUSSION

Sunday, Nov. 7, 2021 noon to 2:30 pm

Screening: Noon to 1:40 - Discussion: 1:40-2:30 p.m.

SNACKS PROVIDED – Bring a snack to share if you like.

VIRTUAL SCREENING AND DISCUSSION

Thursday, Nov. 18th at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, March 13,
2021, 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon

JOIN THE VIRTUAL SCREENING HERE:
<https://tinyurl.com/13thScreeningUCH>

Ava DuVernay's Emmy-award-winning documentary **13th** explains the connection between America's history of slavery and today's mass incarceration. The 13th amendment abolished slavery but allowed an exception for incarcerated persons, thus providing an economic incentive for exploitation and mass incarceration of millions of Americans.

Sponsored by the Unitarian Church of Hinsdale Racial Equity Team
QUESTIONS: mhonelwilson@gmail.com

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

CALLING ALL JARS

Save your empty pickle, pasta sauce, salsa and other jars. No need to wash them out, just put the cap on and deposit them in the box available in the Alice Warren Room. They will be born again as solar jar lights.

Any questions or if you would like your jar back as a solar jar light, please contact Dennis Sejut at 630-917-1183. Texts welcome.



SOCIAL JUSTICE COLLECTION

Our October recipient is Planned Parenthood of Illinois. [Planned Parenthood of Illinois](#). Especially these days as women's reproductive rights are under attack, Planned Parenthood offers essential health services to low-income women and girls. This month's recipient is chosen in honor of Velaine Carnall who was a tireless supporter of women and their health options.

The collection in church is received on the second Sunday of the month but you can donate at any point. Hit the [donate button](#) on the website and choose the Social Action tab.

Thank you so much for your generosity in this work!

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, November 6.

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](#)

Tuesday, Nov. 23, 7:30 p.m. *The Dignity of Difference: How to Avoid the Clash of Civilizations* by Jonathan Sacks. (2003) Rabbi Jonathan Sacks's radical proposal for reconciling hatreds. The first major statement by a Jewish leader on the ethics of globalization, it also marks a paradigm shift in the approach to religious coexistence.

Tuesday, Jan. 25, 7:30 p.m. *You Don't Belong Here* by Elizabeth Becker. (2021) The author uses three women's work 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

NEWS & NOTES

Monthly Touchstone Needs Submissions

In-depth communication about all the great things going on at church. Get your news and articles in by the **1st of the month** to for publication on the 15th to UCHTouchstone@gmail.com

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 -

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

