

APRIL 2012

Unichord



THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF ELGIN

UUCE: Unplugged

In early March, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin installed 40 photo voltaic panels on its roof. These solar panels will generate about 11,727 kilo-watt hours per year, which is equivalent to around 37% of the church's electrical needs. As a result, 22,790 pounds of carbon dioxide, 46 pounds of nitrous gases, and

118 pounds of sulfate will not be produced. This is equivalent to planting four acres of trees every year.

The church has a long history of concern for environmental issues. It is a member of the Green Sanctuary movement through which churches work to become more sustainable.

Reverend Dan Brosier sees

this as another step on the road to being good stewards of the natural world. "This is just one of several such projects involving the use of renewable energy sources," he said.

For more information about the system that was installed at the church, contact Lisa Albrecht of Solar Service at 847-647-9312 or 773-497-5472.



From the Minister

Two of my favorite April/Spring poems:

Chaucer 1343 - 1400

When, in April, sweet showers fall
And pierce the drought of March,
And bathe the vein and root
Of every plant with such liquor
That genders forth the flowers

E. E. CUMMINGS 1894–1962

in Just-
spring when the world is mud-
luscious the little
lame balloonman

whistles far and wee

and eddieandbill come
running from marbles and
piracies and it's
spring

when the world is puddle-wonderful

the queer
old balloonman whistles
far and wee
and bettyandisbel come dancing

from hop-sotch and jump-rope and

it's
spring
and

the

goat-footed

balloonMan whistles
far
and
wee

—Dan

A Month of Sundays

4/1: PERSPECTIVE

Sometimes looking at the world in a different way can make all the difference. Service led by Stephen Day.

4/8: UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHRISTIANITY

A look at what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist Christian. Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

4/15: JAZZ THEOLOGY

Sorry no coffee. Service led by Tim Closson. *(Editor's note: coffee drinkers can get their fix in the Fellowship Hall after the service.)*

4/22: WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW AND DO TO SAVE THE EARTH

Life long educator, Quaker, and environmentalist Bill Howenstine will share his perspective on the state of the world. Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

4/29: ACCEPTING DEATH

"Death waits for us all, and to die is a law—not a punishment." Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

All services begin at 10:45

Munch & Mulch

Celebrate Earth Day on April 22 at the UUCE! We will have a simple lunch and a mulching party after the service. "After we feed ourselves, we will feed the trees," so says the Lorax! Sponsored by the Landscape and Grounds Team.

April Calendar

Worship Services

Sunday mornings at 10:45

Adult Religious Exploration and Education

Sunday mornings at 9:00 in room 301

New Adult REE class: "Mapping Your Life." See details below.

Bells Practice

Sundays at 12:30 in the bell room

Board of Trustees Meeting

April 18 at 7:00 in the Fellowship Hall

Book Group—Afternoon

April 30 at 12:30 (offsite)

Book Group—Evening

April 20 at 7:00 (offsite)

Buddhist Group

Thursdays at 7:00 (offsite)

Cardboard City: REE Overnighter

April 21-22 under the sky

Committee on the Ministry

April 4 at 7:00

Covenant Group

April 3 and 17 at 7:00 (off site)

Executive Team

April 11 and 25 at 1:00

Finance Committee

April 11 at 7:00

Improv Group

Sundays at 7:30 in room 301

OWL Classes

April 6 at 6:00 and April 7 at noon in the Fellowship Hall and in rooms 301 and 302

qUilting

April 7 from 9:00 to noon in room 302

Pastel Demo—Dotty Carringi

April 21 at 1:00 in room 302

Social Justice Committee

April 25 at 7:00

UNICHORD DEADLINE April 22

Western Crescent Ministers' Meeting

April 18 at 11:00 in room 301

New Adult REE Class: Mapping Your Life

We will be going on a grand journey of self-discovery through mapmaking. An artistic background is not needed. Just bring yourself and a spirit of fun.

We will create maps of our experiences, our personal journeys and ourselves. This will be done using provided art papers, scissors, paste, lots of colored pens and markers. You will leave each class with another page or pages to add to your book about you.

For details, contact [Jane Kimball](#).



How does it feel to be homeless? Find out on April 20 when you share in this special Religious Exploration and Education overnight venture.

This is an experiential event on homelessness. Participants first gather for a simple meal, similar to what a soup kitchen would serve. After learning a bit about homelessness, those present will construct homes from cardboard boxes and sleep in them – outside! So mark your calendars for April 20, and join us!

From the Director of Religious Exploration and Education

Our Adult Spirituality program continues with two new classes starting April 15: "Mapping Your Life" and "A World of Health." Both classes meet at 9:00 on the third floor. Look for more information on the e-list and in the order of service.

The Religious Exploration and Education Team is coordinating the church's participation in Feed My Starving Children. This organization has a site in Schaumburg where volunteers help pack food that goes to children all over the world. The church would like to send 29 people to pack food on June 2, from 9:00-11:00. Families are encouraged to volunteer, since children as young as 5 years can do so! Sign up for this event by sending an email to Vickie Kilgore at vkilgore@gmail.com. Also, each REE class will be holding a bake sale to raise money to contribute. If you wish to contribute baked goods, please wrap them individually to be sold for \$.50-\$1.

In addition to this effort, we will once again have Cardboard City. All who participated last time had so much fun, they frequently ask when we will do it again! For those of you who are not familiar with this event, here is a brief summary: This is an experiential event on homelessness. We gather for a simple meal, learn a bit about homelessness, and then construct our own homes from cardboard boxes and sleep in them – outside! So mark your calendars for April 20, and join us!

Some of our 7th-9th grade youth are now participating in the Our Whole Lives (OWL) sexuality education program. This is a very comprehensive program that requires a big commitment: we run 5-6 hour-and-a-half sessions one weekend a month! I am so thankful for our volunteer facilitators, Mila Brinker and Kevin Sweeney. And I'm sure the parents are too!

For our youngest participants, here's what is happening in their religious exploration and education classes this month:

APRIL 1

Preschool: Bodies Are Different
K-2: Islam: Sitti's Secrets
3-5: Passover
6-8: Paganism: Ostara Ritual
High School: Christianity, Part 1

APRIL 8

Preschool: Easter
K-2: Islam: Fasting and Dates
3-5: Easter
6-8: Earth-Centered Spirituality: Native American
High School: Christianity, Part 2

APRIL 15

Preschool: We Need the Rain
K-2: Islam: The Day of Ahmed's Secret
3-5: Africa Day
6-8: Native American, Part 2
High School: Christianity, Part 3

APRIL 22

Preschool: We Must Care For the Earth
K-2: Buddhism: Tenzin's Deer
3-5: Earth Day
6-8: Honoring the Earth
High School: Christianity, Part 4

APRIL 29

Preschool: Spring Makes the Earth Beautiful
K-2: Buddhism: The Brave Little Parrot
3-5: Buddha's Birthday
6-8: Ancient Times: Mythology or Religion?
High School: Islam: Peace by Surrender

In Faith,
—Kathy

Budgeted \$106,447

Actual \$102,694

Pledge income as of 02/29/2012

President's Reflections

Some random thoughts and seasonal observations:

- My first church event after emerging from a pharmaceutical fog in February was attending the Service Auction. It was fun and well organized.
- I'm glad to be a member of a religion that is relevant and treats all individuals with respect (Seven Principles) in the 21st century instead of being mired in medieval times and attitudes.
- Illinois politics range from the sublime (Obama's presidency) to the ridiculous (Governor Walker, Governor Ryan, Governor Blagojevich, etc.).
- Spring Break is upon us with end of the school year temperatures.
- Last week and for the next two weekends I will spend time following Cinderellas, grace in pressure situations, and diaper dandies—NCAA March Madness.

—Tim

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2012

Members Present:

Andrea Budasi, Andrea Schmidlin, Betsy Thrasher, Dan Brosier (representing the Executive Team), David Clough, Deb Caruso, Stephen Day, Tim Davis.

Reports:

- A. Budget Report
 - Dan answered questions about how the musicians are paid
 - Dan answered question about why prior year pledge income for December dropped
 - Financial report approved without change
- B. Earmarked Funds Report
 - Question about whether "Feed My Starving Children" is an earmarked fundraiser (Temporary Fund?)
- C. Executive Team Report
 - Volleyball court is coming!
 - Solar panels installation will begin 2/20
 - Discussion about late tax payments

- Discussion about church picnic scheduling
- D. Monitoring Report – Section II H, I, J & K
 - We are in compliance on all items.

Unfinished Business:

- A. Food Safety Topic – shelved until Beth Cooper-Zobott returns
- B. Employee compensation – information from UUA is not available yet
 - UUA will be called to get figures
 - Committee will meet as soon as possible to get numbers before canvass

New Business:

- A. Canvass task force for minister/church performance measuring
 - It was determined that we are due for another comprehensive survey of the congregation
 - Stephen volunteered to coordinate a survey to be executed by April 1

Next meeting scheduled for March 21st

Dismantling Injustice & Reaching for Hope

Consider spending a weekend meeting with young adults from around the Midwest doing social justice, attending workshops, enjoying contemporary worship and good food with old & new friends. Individuals between the ages of 18-35 are invited to spend May 4 -6 for a modern twist on anti-racism/anti-oppression. This will be a

weekend of social action and personal growth. Participants will focus on racial, gender, and sexual orientation prejudice; where they arise from and what can we do as individuals to try and improve what is going on around us. The search for a path beyond oppression will encourage each participant to go on a journey of individuation. Those

in attendance will consider questions such as: How do we want to define ourselves? What societal norms we are willing to allow to be applied to ourselves?

There will also be an opportunity to volunteer with Empower Women in Africa. This part of the weekend will include examining underlying societal structures that create prejudice, and engaging in group discussions and artistic meditation. Participants will thus empower one another to become the change they wish to see in the world.

Make sure to bring comfy overnight gear, the snacks you can't live without, and something to share at Saturday night's coffee house!

Location: Springfield's Abraham Lincoln Unitarian Universalist Congregation

745 Woodside Road,
Springfield, IL [Map and Directions]

Lodging: Participants may sleep at the church or make other arrangements for overnight lodging.

Cost: Sliding Scale: \$40.00 - \$90.00. Super broke? Apply for a scholarship!

[Website and registration](#)

[Scholarship application](#)

Contact:

[Elizabeth Kueny](#)
773-633-0445

Kudos

Thanks to Bridget, our childcare worker for assistance with the office computer.

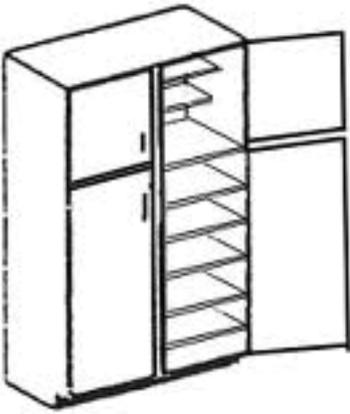
Hospitality volunteers for the month of March are:

Sue & D.J. Hedke,
Tom Scott, Bonnie
&
Dennis Schwank, Norm Wilkinson, April Swain,
Cheren Waller, Phil & Sandy Webster, Debbie Caruso,
Jane Kimball, and Lydia Larrabee. Greeters, coffee makers, and cleaner uppers are always welcomed with gratitude; just call Church Administrator Mila Brinker at 847.888.0668.

Special kudos for Mary Alice and Joe Masonick for the Farmers Market. They have made this event a reality for many years and are now taking a well-deserved break. Mary Alice commented, "I think the church would benefit from continuing to host the markets. In the grand tradition of Unitarian Universalism, a committee might be advisable."

Thanks to all for their gifts of time and energy!





The Cupboard is Bare

This month the All People's Inter-Faith Pantry needs cereal and canned fruit. In the non-food area, they indicated a big need for dish detergent and can also use face soap.

Try to bring your donations on our Pantry Sunday, April 1, but as always, your contributions are welcome any time during the month.

Men Ride Again

Yes, they are at it again. This summer, men from the Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin will once again attempt to break the sonic barrier, or at least have the wind at their backs, as they bike up hill and down dale. Word has it that they will wear lycra and pay money for food.

If you have external plumbing and would like to ride along, contact Dan Brosier or telephone the church at 847-888-0668. Tight pants required, cape optional.

Book Clubs Meet

The Afternoon Book Group will meet at 12:30 on Monday, April 30, at the home of Sandy Webster to discuss "[Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close](#)" by Jonathan Safran Foer. On May 28 the group will meet at the home of Jane Kimball to discuss "[Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet](#)" by Jamie Ford. For further information contact [Alice Macy](#).

The next meeting of the UUCE evening book club will be held on Friday, April 20 at 7:00 PM, at the Panera Bread store in Elgin (located at 2484 N. Randall Road, Elgin, IL 60123. Tel: 847/426-7000). The April selection is "[Running Away to Home](#)" by Jennifer Wilson.

April Birthdays

1	Daniel Hislip	14	Donna Askins
1	Jennifer Engel	14	Dan Brosier
4	Tommy Schnidt	17	Bob Hamill
5	Sheena John	18	Charmaine Hamill
6	Bob Bedard	20	Ron Williams
7	Andrew Russel III	20	Kim Cecil
10	Mary Knapp	26	Elizabeth Closson
11	Mitch King		



Ways to Get in Touch

WEBSITE

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