



SEPTEMBER 2012

# Unichord



THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF ELGIN

## Welcome Home!

Our new church year begins on Sunday, September 9. This traditional InGathering service draws summer to a close.

Minister Dan Brosier returns to the pulpit, and once again, all church services begin at 10:45.

This day we hold the first of our three annual communions—the water communion. Families are invited to bring a little water from their summer adventures, and say a few words about where the water came from. Tap water can be used as a stand-in to represent a special place or event. Past water communions have commemorated visits to homes of loved ones, camping and bike trips, and of course, lakes and beaches where people went for vacations.

The individual contributions of water are poured into a common vessel. This ritual shows that all of us together form community, and the joining of our spirits is what makes the water holy. The water is then saved for use in rituals throughout the year.

Part of the tradition of InGathering is the singing of *Welcome Home*, penned by our own Steve Askins for the

occasion of the dedication of our sanctuary on February 22, 1998. The lyrics are below.

*Everybody's saying,  
"Welcome Home!  
The road was steep, the  
journey long.*

*Welcome Home,  
Now the beams are mighty  
and the walls are strong."*

*Welcome Home!  
After building and praying,  
and hoping so long, it's time  
to sing a welcome song.*

*Once we made the big  
decision, there was nowhere  
else we could turn.*

*Even after it's real, the vision  
says you still have a lot to  
learn.*

*But hearts and minds have a  
way now, of telling our feet  
where to go—*

*we knew we'd get there any  
day now, and now that we're  
here, we all know it's time to  
sing:*

*"Welcome Home,  
Welcome Home!"*

*We gather to share joy and  
sorrow in a place where our  
souls can mend.*

*As we look to a new  
tomorrow,  
we know the journey never  
really ends.*

*But no matter how far we  
travel; no matter how far we  
may roam; no matter what  
knots we have to unravel,  
it's nice to know  
we can come home.*

*There's a light in the window,  
hope within, so open the door,  
and come on in!*

*There's a roof above us, love  
to guide us, so let the spirit of  
life inside us, and:*

*"Welcome Home,  
Welcome Home!"*

# From the Minister

Ah, yes, it is an election season. In seasons past there have been, on occasion, passionate expressions within our church community for a party or a candidate. These most often occur during the sharing of joys and concerns, and it is not unusual for one of the candidates to be portrayed as evil incarnate and the other as the messiah. Such statements often do not result in an upswell of support for the favored candidate. Instead, members of our community who don't share that political persuasion are left feeling attacked, out of place, and angry.

In this political season let us remember that diversity of opinion is good, that it helps us make informed decisions, and that this church community is not composed of people from one political persuasion. Any time you are tempted to make a passionate statement about some quality of the other party and its members, remember the person next to you may very well feel attacked by your words. This leads to alienation, which is not what we seek as a beloved community—is not what we seek as a voice for democracy. On such occasions there are no winners—just less trust, greater separation, and deeper misunderstanding.

—Dan

## We're Floored

**Heartfelt thanks goes out to the following for funding, selecting, coordinating and installing our new kitchen floor—and for a serious clean-up:**

**Alice Macy  
Brandi Talaga  
Dan Brosier  
Dotty Carringi  
Henny DuBois**

**Joe Masonick  
Mike Moutrie  
Shirley Wolin  
Suzanne Hanifl**

# A Month of Sundays

## **9/9: INGATHERING AND WATER COMMUNION**

On this Sunday a new church year begins, the summer dispersion ends, and the community gathers in larger numbers. On this Sunday we will hold our annual water communion when we celebrate the gifts that community offers. Members and friends are encouraged to bring a small amount of water from a place that has meaning to them. This water can actually come from that place, or you can use tap water as a stand in. During the service we will collect the water in a common vessel and share some of what it means. Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

## **9/16: WHAT I LEARNED ON THE RUG**

In kindergarten each of us had a rug upon which we sat, snacked and slept. It was from this rug that many of us learned (or didn't learn) the important lessons of our early years. Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

## **9/23: WHAT IS IN A NAME—UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM**

A little history, a little theology, and a few stories about our denominational name and what it means. Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

## **9/30: LIVING IN RIGHT RELATIONSHIP**

*Right relationship* is an age-old term used to describe how we are to live together in a way that promotes the holy. It is a concept that has kept its significance for thousands of years. Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

***Services begin at 10:45.***

# September Calendar

## Worship Services

September 9, 16, 23 and at 10:45; no service on Labor Day

## Board of Trustees Meeting

September 18 at 7:00 in the Fellowship Hall

*The Board meets on the third Tuesday of every month.*

*Meetings are open to members of the congregation.*

## Book Group—Afternoon

September 24 at 12:30 (offsite)

## Book Group—Evening

September 21 at 7:00 (offsite)

## Buddhist Group

Thursdays at 7:00 (offsite)

## Care Team

September 11 at 10:30 in the Fellowship Hall

## Committee on the Ministry

To be determined

## Executive Team

To be determined

## Finance Committee

To be determined

## Improv Group

Sundays at 7:00 in the Sanctuary

UNICHORD DEADLINE



SEPTEMBER 23



## Wheel of Life

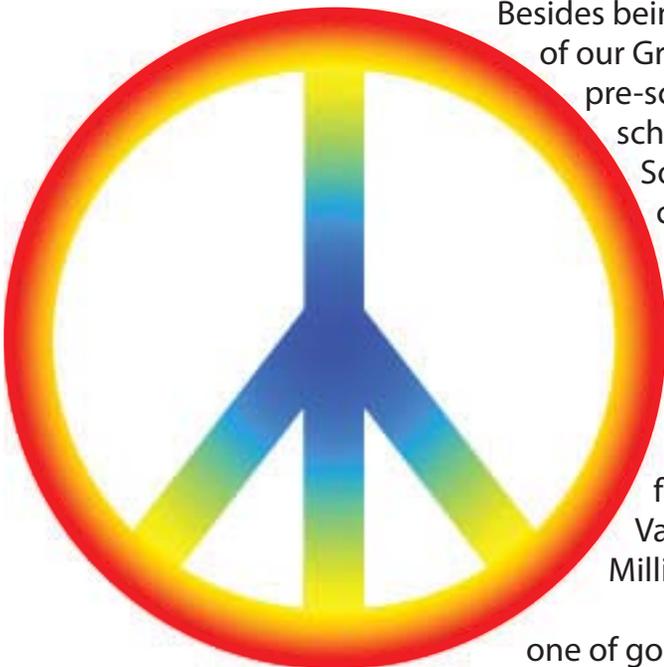
On July 9, longtime church member and friend Stacey Reynolds died peacefully at home, surrounded by family and friends. She was married to Thomas Lesiewicz on the beach in Jamaica, in 1992. They had three children: Aleks, Kassia, and Jacoby.

Besides being active in the church, most notably as a key member of our Green Sanctuary, Stacey volunteered at her children's pre-school (Elgin Parent Coop Preschool), elementary school (Lowrie PTA), neighborhood community (SWAN-Southwest Area Neighbors), and in the larger Elgin community (Elgin Sustainability Master Plan - Green Buildings and Technology). In 2009 she reached a life-long goal of earning her black belt in the martial arts.

The church overflowed with relatives and friends at her memorial service on August 8, Stacey's birthday.

Instead of flowers, she requested that people plant something, big or small, or donate to any of the following: Elgin Community Garden Network, Fox Valley Volunteer Hospice, Living Lands and Water Million Tree Project, or LivingWell Cancer Resource Center.

Stacey was a quiet, loving person, whose legacy is one of good will, and earth and social justice. She is missed.



# From the Director of Religious Exploration and Education

Welcome back to a new church year! As usual, it's hard to believe that summer is just about over!

For our young people, this year's curricular theme will be Exploring Our Judeo-Christian Heritage. We will learn some of the main stories from the Old and New Testaments, and how they connect to our Unitarian Universalist faith and traditions. We will also do some social action projects during the year.

The Adult Spirituality program will continue as well. As of this writing, we are fine-tuning our dates and will publish the details as soon as possible. As always, if you have an idea or passion you would like us to consider, or are interested in facilitating one, please let me know.

A prospectus will be available at the Welcome Table for those interested, and I will email it to all parents as well. Parents can also pick up a copy during Religious Exploration and Education registration, which will be the first three Sundays of the new church year.

Since our program is a cooperative one, I encourage you to get involved! There are four openings for teachers: preschool, K-2nd, 3rd-5th,

and 6th-8th grades. There is also a need for nine assistants, as well as helpers for one-time events. Imagine how rich our program would be if everyone got involved—even in just the smallest of ways! For parents, it shows your children how you value and care about their spirituality and education. I look forward to another year with you!

Here's what is happening this month:

- September 9 – Welcoming Sunday Intergenerational – no classes
- September 16 – Chalice Circle – all ages meet to hear about the year and choose social action project
- September 23 – Harry Potter Day
- September 30 – Fall Nature Hike



In Faith,  
—Kathy

## Happy Birthday!

*If it weren't for you, we wouldn't be us.*

2	<i>Susan Anderson</i>	18	<i>Beth Cooper-Zobott</i>	26	<i>Abigail Anderson</i>
5	<i>Quincy Laflin</i>	20	<i>Valerie Howells</i>	26	<i>Sarah Stultz</i>
5	<i>Val Broyles</i>	22	<i>Melissa Owens</i>	27	<i>Diana Jyoti</i>
7	<i>Janeen Vanko</i>	22	<i>Ann Kremer</i>		
9	<i>Scott McTague</i>	23	<i>Jim Porter</i>		
10	<i>Anne Ward</i>	23	<i>Colin P. Broyles</i>		
13	<i>Tony Dean</i>	25	<i>Kristin Wachholder</i>		
12	<i>Jane Holish</i>	25	<i>Caitlin Sweeney</i>		



# Board of Trustees (BOT) Meeting Minutes

June 20, 2012

Members Present:

A. Budasi, B. Cooper-Zobott, B. Thrasher, D. Clough, D. Yaeger, D. Caruso, K. Underwood (Executive Team), K. Flanagan, L. Closson, S. Smagatz, S. Day, T. Davis.

Presentation: L. Closson reviewed vandalism event.

## REPORTS

- A. Budget Report – Approved
  - Discussion about how to improve lull in summer income
- B. Earmarked Funds Report - Approved
- C. Executive Team Report – Program Report Review
  - K. Underwood presented report about congregation participation in programmed activities and the extent to which the Executive Team meets Board of Trustees policies
- D. Upcoming events:
  - New Member orientation will be after the service on July 22 from 11:00 - 1:00
  - Board of Trustees retreat will be August 12

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Food Safety Topic – B. Cooper-Zobott reported on her investigation to date. More to come.
- B. Member Survey – No survey to review

## NEW BUSINESS

- A. CAUUC – Chicago Area Unitarian Universalist Council
  - D. Caruso attended CAUUC annual meeting and will follow up with D. Brosier and JR about PR topic
  - CAUUC broadcasts a “Food for the Soul” program on Sundays at 6:00 on WCPT at 820AM and FM 92.7
- B. Bylaw Change Discussion – There was a process question about the bylaw change vote at the Annual Congregational Meeting. The board discussed various options to rectify

the lack of proper notice before the annual membership meeting for the proposed bylaw changes that the endowment committee proposed. D. Caruso will follow up with D.J. Jensen.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 20th.



## President's Reflections

I am writing this on the day of the Board Retreat which was such a great experience earlier today! It is wonderful to be a part of a group of people that truly not only respect each other but also enjoy each others' company. We learned some very interesting things about each other today, gotta love ice breakers! It will be a pleasure to be on the Board this year with a group of people who want to get things done and help keep the church the warm and welcoming place it is. On that note if there is something that you feel needs to get done around the church feel free to step up. Our church depends heavily on volunteers from the Religious Education and Exploration program to landscaping and grounds to greeting and making coffee and of course the massive undertaking of the Service Auction, I could go on... When everyone contributes a little bit of time it all gets done. There are also plenty of social activities to do as well with Circle Supper, Covenant Groups, Social Justice endeavors, fellowship hour after the service, I could go on... I hope that every member and friend this year makes the most out of what they experience and contributes to our spiritual home of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin.



Thanks,  
—Debbie

## **Books. Unitarians. Life is Good.**

The Afternoon Book Group will meet at 12:30 on Monday, September 24, at the home of Betsy Thrasher to discuss "Let the Great World Spin" by Colum McCann. For further information contact [Alice Macy](#).

The September meeting of the UUCE evening book club is Friday, September 21 at 7:00 at the Panera Bread store in Elgin (located at 2484 N. Randall Road, Elgin, IL 60123 Tel: 847/426-7000). The September selection is "Under the Banner of Heaven" by Jon Krakauer. This group is open to all members and friends of UUCE. Feel free to bring a friend! All are welcome. For more information, please contact [Beth Cooper-Zobott](#).

## **Do You Feel Funny?**

The UUCE improv troupe, ImpromptUU, meets every Sunday night from 7-9 at the church. The troupe is always open to all people who want to try their hand at improv comedy. No previous experience is required. Just show up, or contact [Bridget Laffin](#).

## **Before You Go, Please Clean Your Room**

As our church becomes busier, remember to leave the space in good shape for the next group. If you are the last to leave a room or the building, please turn off the lights and close the windows. If the garbage can is filling up, please tie up the bag, replace with a new bag (there should be an extra bag at the bottom of the can) and deposit garbage in the bin outside the side doors. If you use items from the kitchen, please wash them when you are done.

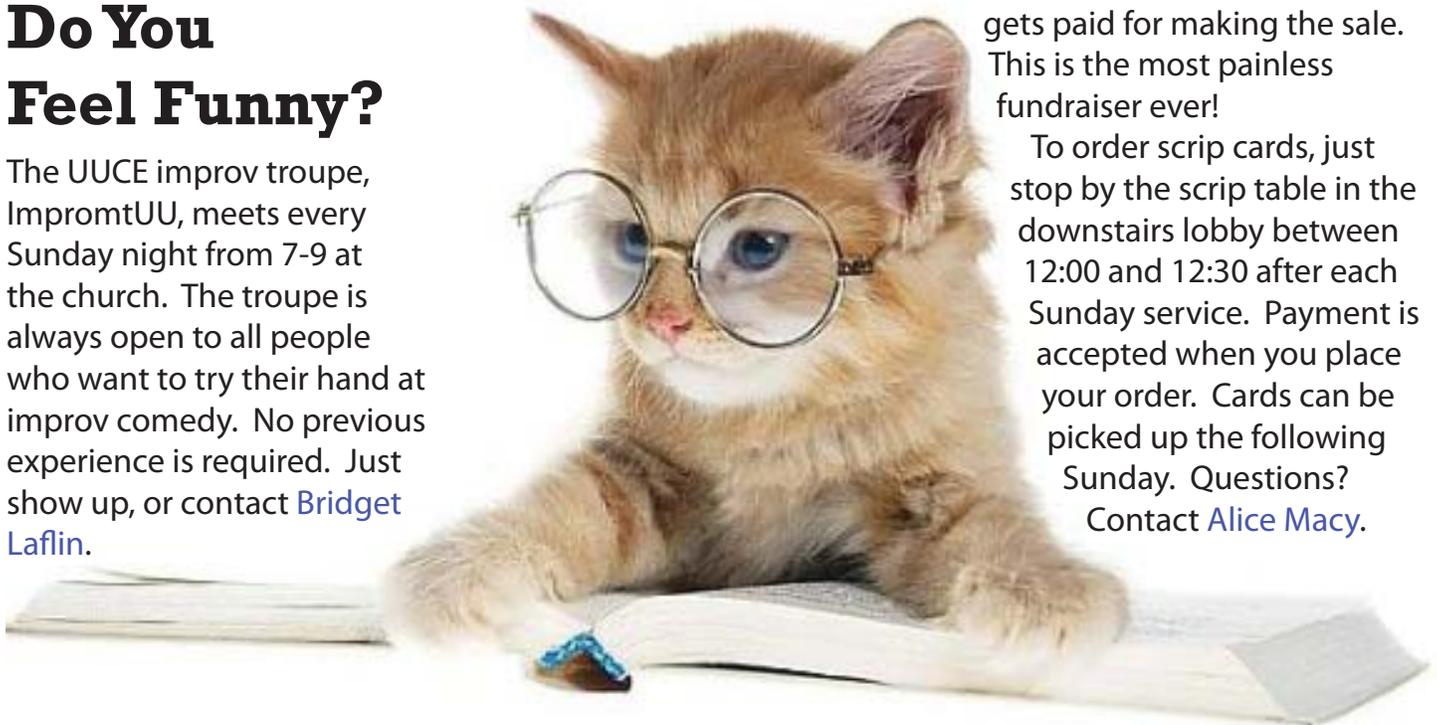
## **How to Buy Back-to-School Supplies**

Buy the supplies you would buy anyway – just use a gift card to do it! The church sells gift cards, also known as scrip, for dozens of national and local retailers: Jewel-Osco, Target, Best Buy, Office Max, Walgreen's, Amazon, and a whole lot more. Scrip cards for iTunes, Panera, Whole Foods, The Gap, or Starbuck's make great gifts for

college students. Gift cards for gasoline will remind them to come home and visit once in a while.

These are the exact same gift cards available in retail stores. The cost of the gift card is the same and so is the value of the card. The difference is that when you buy the gift card from the church, the church gets paid for making the sale. This is the most painless fundraiser ever!

To order scrip cards, just stop by the scrip table in the downstairs lobby between 12:00 and 12:30 after each Sunday service. Payment is accepted when you place your order. Cards can be picked up the following Sunday. Questions? Contact [Alice Macy](#).



# There Wasn't Enough Food This Summer

The All People's Inter-Faith Pantry really needs donations since contributions were poor this summer.

Clip the list at right and take it with you when you shop. Even one item would help someone in need.

Try to bring your donations on our pantry Sunday, **SEPTEMBER 9**. As always, however, your donations are welcome anytime during the month.

Questions? Contact [Henry DuBois](#).

- 
- Cereal
  - Juice
  - Peanut butter
  - Jelly
  - Canned meats
  - Bar soap
  - Dish detergent
  - t.p.

## GREEN CORNER

### Walking is Green For You

Excerpts from "[Walking](#)"  
By Henry David Thoreau

I think that I cannot preserve my health and spirits, unless I spend four hours a day at least...sauntering through the woods and over the hills and fields, absolutely free from all worldly engagements....When sometimes I am reminded that the mechanics and shopkeepers stay in their shops not only all the forenoon, but all the afternoon too, sitting with crossed legs, so many of them—as if the legs were made to sit upon, and not to stand or walk upon—I think that they deserve some credit for not having all committed suicide long ago.

I, who cannot stay in my chamber for a single day without acquiring some rust, and when sometimes I have stolen forth for a walk at the

eleventh hour, or four o'clock in the afternoon, too late to redeem the day, when the shades of night were already beginning to be mingled with the daylight, have felt as if I had committed some sin to be atoned for,—I confess that I am astonished at the power of endurance, to say nothing of the moral insensibility, of my neighbors who confine themselves to shops and offices the whole day for weeks and months, aye, and years almost together....

Moreover, you must walk like a camel, which is said to be the only beast which ruminates when walking. When a traveler asked Wordsworth's servant to show him her master's study, she answered, "Here is his library, but his study is out of doors"....

When we walk, we naturally go to the fields and woods:

what would become of us, if we walked only in a mall?

At present, in this vicinity, the best part of the land is not private property; the landscape is not owned, and the walker enjoys comparative freedom. But possibly the day will come when it will be partitioned off into so-called pleasure-grounds, in which a few will take a narrow and exclusive pleasure only—when fences shall be multiplied, and man-traps and other engines invented to confine men to the PUBLIC road, and walking over the surface of God's earth shall be construed to mean trespassing on some gentleman's grounds. To enjoy a thing exclusively is commonly to exclude yourself from the true enjoyment of it. Let us improve our opportunities, then, before the evil days come....

## Ways to Get in Touch

### WEBSITE

[www.uuce.org](http://www.uuce.org)

### E-MAIL

[minister@uuce.org](mailto:minister@uuce.org)

[administrator@uuce.org](mailto:administrator@uuce.org)

[newsletter@uuce.org](mailto:newsletter@uuce.org)

### PHONE

847-888-0668

### PHYSICAL LOCATION

39W830 Highland Avenue  
three miles west of Randall Rd.

### POSTAL MAIL

P. O. Box 1032

Elgin, IL 60121

## Kudos

We give special thanks to all who helped out at the memorial service and reception for Stacey Reynolds.

Thanks are also extended to volunteers who greeted, made coffee, and cleaned up after summer church services:

Tim & Elizabeth Closson,  
Debbie Caruso,  
Jane Kimball, Norm Wilkinson,  
Val & Pete Broyles, Krista & Ryan Flanagan, and  
Diana Heizer.

Special note! The *Unichord* goes to press before the end of the month, so some names do not appear here: those who helped with worship service chores on August 26, and those who pitched in for the Great Church Clean-Up on August 25. You are appreciated.



## The Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin

P. O. Box 1032 • Elgin, IL 60121

