



OCTOBER 2010

Unichord



THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF ELGIN

Ways to Get Involved

Here at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin (UUCE), there are always lots of activities going on. Whether you are a long-time member, a first-time visitor, or somewhere in between, you are warmly welcome to join in. Below are some ways to do so.

Read a Good Book

The members of the Book Group warmly invite you to join them at any of their upcoming meetings, which begin at 12:30.

October 25 - *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* by Stieg Larsson. At the home of Jane Kimball.

November 29 - *The Ten-Year Nap* by Meg Wolitzer. Place to be determined.

Feed the Hungry

The need for donations is greater than ever at the All-People's Interfaith Pantry. There is a shortage of facial soap. The old standbys of cereal, juice, peanut butter, jelly, canned meats and canned fruit are always needed, and the same is true for laundry soap. Donations have been skimpy lately; we need enough

to make the trip to the Pantry worthwhile.

If you prefer to make a cash donation to help purchase perishable items, such as meat and bread, make your check payable to the All People's Inter-Faith Pantry and give it to Bob Jackson or Henny DuBois.

Finally, the Pantry can always use grocery bags, but please, no plastic sleeves in which newspaper are delivered.

Make a Blanket for a Child

No experience is necessary to join the qUUilters, who are looking for people to cut fabric, iron, and/or sew. Again this year, they are making blankets for Project Linus. Project Linus provides love, a sense of security, warmth and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need of new, handmade blankets and afghans.

Join this group on the first Saturday of every month, from 9 to noon in the third floor classroom, for lots of fun and fellowship. The next gathering is October 2.

Discover the New U

The New U program is a two-session workshop designed to give people new to Unitarian Universalism some basic information about the faith in general and this church in particular. The program is facilitated by Membership Coordinator Kathy Hislip and Minister Dan Brosier. The next session will run two consecutive Sundays beginning on October 17 at 12:45 PM. All interested in learning a bit more about UUism are encouraged to attend. Please sign up on the designated clipboard at the first floor visitor's table. If you would like childcare, please indicate so on the sign-up sheet by October 10. If you have any questions call Dan Brosier at the church.

Get to Know Your Fellow Men

The new men's group is off and running. Regular meetings are already yielding the benefits of sharing and caring. It is not too late to find out what the excitement is about. Just talk to Doug Pratt or Bob Jackson. Hurry — there is only room left for one or two additional men.

From the Minister

The following was written by a Unitarian Universalist minister with the initials “rdp.” That is all I know about the person except I like what s/he wrote.



Every once in a while, I hear something like this: “My spiritual life is important to me, but I don’t believe in organized religion.” I usually fall silent at that. Why do they tell this to a clergyman? Does the speaker want my blessing on her choice?

Does he want me to try to convince him to come to church? My silence indicates, I hope, that I have heard what has been said, and that I’m not going to get into it. I don’t want to either scold or to bless. The doors of our church are open; the bell in the tower sounds our welcome. When adults are ready to participate in the religious community, they will choose to do so on their own.

What I don’t say, but perhaps should, is that I don’t believe in organized religion either; I’m a Unitarian. I’m a Unitarian, and that gives me the best of both worlds. My spiritual life is largely a private matter between God and me; nobody tells me what to believe. But I derive benefit sharing some of my spiritual orientation with others; their queries and reservations and sharings help me inwardly to sharpen and clarify what I mean in a marvelous communal process of sifting and winnowing.

“The woods are my church,” some say. Yes, I know. The trees don’t talk back. The deer give no argument. The squirrels never ask for a helping hand.

Liberal religious community is for those whose spiritual life is strong enough to be strengthened more — in human give and take.

— Dan

A Month of Sundays

OCTOBER

10/3: Preparing for Death

We earn the freedom to live our wholeness when we have cast off our fear of death. Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

10/10: This Little Light of Mine

On this Sunday we are reviving a service that we once did regularly. We will hear from three of our members about a passion they have for something, hopefully something that fulfills them spiritually, or in any case, something very meaningful in their lives. The benefit is to get to know our fellow UUs a little better, so we don’t hide our lights under our respective bushels! Service led by Paul Anderson.

10/17: Liberal Religion or Religious Liberalism

What does it mean to be a religion? What does it mean to be a liberal religion?

What does it take to be a Unitarian Universalist? Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

10/24: Our Unitarian Universalist Heritage Discovered Through Postage Stamps

We learn about a few of our UU ancestors who have been honored by postage stamps. Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

10/31: Our Monsters

For thousands of years, humans have been terrified and intrigued by monsters. Only by entering their dark world can we understand where their power arises. Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

All services begin at 10:45.

October Calendar

Worship Services

Sunday mornings at 10:45

Adult R.E.

Sunday mornings at 9:00 in rooms 301 and 302

Book Group

October 25 at 12:30 (offsite)

Buddhism Group

Every Thursday from 6:45 to 9:15 in room 302

Candlelight Labyrinth Walk

October 31 at 6:00 in the Sanctuary and Labyrinth

Care Team

October 26 at 10:00

Circle Supper Potluck

October 16 at 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall

Community Garden Harvest Celebration

October 30 at 9:00 a.m.

Covenant Group

October 5 and 19 at 7:00 (offsite)

Crop Walk

October 17

Executive Team Meetings

October 6 and 20 at 1:00

Finance Team Meeting

October 13 at 7:00

Flentge/Yucuis Wedding Rehearsal

October 23 at 1:00 in the Sanctuary

Flentge/Yucuis Wedding

October 24 at 2:00 in the Sanctuary

Geneva WomanSpirit Group Labyrinth Walk

October 21

Green Sanctuary Meeting

October 17 at 12:30 in room 301

Landscape and Grounds Work Party

October 10 at 12:30

New U

October 17 and 24 at 12:45 in room 301

Preparing for Your Death Workshop

October 3 at 12:45 in room 302

qUilters

October 2 from 9 to noon in the third floor classroom

Samhain Ritual

October 30 at 8:00 in the Sanctuary

Social Justice Council

October 27 at 7:00 in the Fellowship Hall

New Evening Book Group

Dear UUCE Readers,

Would you like to be part of a book group but can't meet during the day? We're hoping to launch a brand new book group, open to men and women, which will meet in the evening once a month, probably on a Friday. Books to be read and discussed will be selected by members of the group. If you're interested, or have questions or suggestions, please contact [Alice Macy](#).

Preparing For Death

Following the service on October 3, we will be offering a workshop entitled "Preparing for Death." During this workshop we will recognize our mortality and review some of the ways we can prepare for the inevitable end of life. The workshop begins at 12:45. It will be held in room 302 and food will be provided. If you are interested in participating, please sign up on the designated clipboard on the first floor visitors' table. If you have any questions, contact Dan Brosier (minister@uuce.org).

Lifespan Religious Exploration and Education



Our Open House last month was successful! We had a group of about 30 adults and young people who gave their input on what they would like our religious exploration and education program to focus on. Thank you for sharing your thoughts!

The Adult Spirituality programming has begun with two options: “Building Your Own Theology” and “Pronoia.” Both programs begin at 9am on the third floor, so please join us.

As of this writing, I am still in need of two teachers for the younger classes. Every year this is a concern. I often have nightmares, of which there are two versions.

The first version is where there are no friendly, caring adults there, and the young people have to sit through the whole worship service. Sometimes this is OK though — the kids get through it without incident. Other times, however, they are antsy and cause some commotion.

The second version starts out the same, but results in people leaving the church because there isn't a place for their child to go. I usually wake up before this is resolved, which leaves me unable to go back to sleep for quite a while!

While awake, I struggle with this. I can't force people to volunteer. I'm not one to guilt people into it either. I then ask myself, “Whose responsibility is it ultimately?” It is the most challenging part of my job, without any clear answers. Luckily, I still have another week to work on it.

Here's what is happening for the young people this month:

October 3

Preschool: I Can Move
K-2: Self-Affirmation
3-5: Defining Justice
6-8: Building A Utopian Society
High School: Youth will choose topics to explore

October 10

Preschool: I Can Talk
K-2: Listening, Talking, and Sharing
3-5: A Framework for Peace and Justice
6-8: Promoting Our Utopian Society
High School: Youth will choose topics to explore

October 17

Preschool: I Can See
K-2: Fair and Unfair
3-5: Affirmation of Self and Others
6-8: Prejudice and “Isms”
High School: Youth will choose topics to explore

October 24

Preschool: I Can Hear
K-2: Peaceful and Hurtful
3-5: Deciding For Peace & Justice
6-8: Hunger and Poverty
High School: Youth will attend a local conference

October 31

Preschool: Halloween Party
K-2: Halloween Party
3-5: Halloween Party
6-8: Corn Maze or Halloween Party
High School: Halloween Party

In Faith,
—Kathy

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

18 August 2010

Attending: Kevin Sweeney, Steve Stultz, Andrea Budasi, Andrea Schmidlin, Jennifer Day, Betsy Thrasher, Dave Clough, Beth Cooper-Zobott, Shari Smagatz

Reports

- Earmarked funds and budget report – discrepancies noticed, approval postponed until corrections are made.

Unfinished Business

- Check Signer Policy – corrections made for typographical errors and for clarity. Approved.
- Strategic Plan ET Meeting/Ideas for Kickoff – Kevin Sweeney, Andrea Schmidlin and Steve Stultz to represent the board. Lydia Larrabee will be invited to attend.

- President Elect Vacancy/Nominating Committee – one position open on nominating committee, TBD at meeting on August 29th, 2010. Kevin Sweeney appointed to the nominating committee starting in September, 2010.

New Business

- Board Retreat will be held on October 2nd.

- Check signer/designated trustee schedule set through end of 2010.

- Personnel Policy handling – amendment of first two sentences for clarity.

- Our Whole Lives (OWL) Program with First Congregational Church – discussion held on a joint effort with an area United Church of Christ church to share resources and combine youth congregations.

Making a Difference in a Lasting Way

Members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin generously provide support for our congregation with gifts of time and money throughout the church year. Several years ago, some of our congregants recognized the need to provide an opportunity to support our liberal religious beliefs by creating an endowment fund.

The UUCE Endowment Fund was established to help secure, strengthen and sustain the long-term mission of our congregation. We currently have about \$38,000 in our endowment fund, and the interest earned has been used to supplement the revenue that is generated each year by our annual Canvass. Our endowment fund is invested in low risk investments.

Your gift to the endowment fund is added to those of members who have given generously in previous years. The most common gift to the fund has been cash contributions, but there are a variety of options that can be used, including making a planned gift through a will or trust, securities, real estate or personal property. In addition, the UUCE or its endowment fund can

be designated as beneficiary of your IRA, 401K, life insurance policy, retirement or pension plan or other current or future interest in an investment or other significant asset. Your tax accountant can help you decide the tax savings these options may offer.

Contributions to the UUCE Endowment Fund, no matter how large or small, are appreciated and will provide additional financial support on a long-term basis for our mission. For more information, please contact Phil Webster, Carol Schoengart or Tim Davis.

SHARE THE PLATE

During each Sunday service we pass the baskets to collect an offering. Half the non-pledged cash donations collected are given to a charitable organization. In October this charitable organization is the Interfaith Food Pantry that helps feed the hungry. If you wish to write a check to support the program, make it out to the UUCE and write "Share the Plate" on the memo line.

Kudos

... for helping at the landscaping work parties: Jamie Flentge, Rick Yucuis, Mary Gaston, Dave Segal, Kyle Brinker, Joe Masonick, Mary Alice Masonick



GREEN CORNER

International Day of Climate Action: 10/10/10

October 10, 2010 is the International Day of Climate Action. We are called upon to get to work, as individuals and as a community, to reduce our production of greenhouse gases and show our legislators that it's important. Over 100 UU congregations participated in last year's International Day of Climate Action.

What does 350 mean? 350 parts per million (ppm) of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is considered the safe upper limit for humans. Currently, we are nearing 390 ppm! Collectively, we can lower that level.

LET'S TAKE ACTION ON 10/10/10!

Carpool or bicycle to church on 10/10/10.

Bring your compost to church, if you don't compost at home.

Sign up to help finish insulating the church building this fall.

Attend the screening of "No Impact Man" at church (date TBD).

Participate in local 350 events, such as the garlic planting at Hawthorne Hill Nature Center (1:00 p.m. on 10/10/10).

Hang out your laundry.

Use a reusable water bottle, coffee mug, shopping bags.

Reduce, reuse, recycle, rebuy.

Use less gasoline, natural gas, oil, and electricity in your daily life.

—The UUCE Green Sanctuary Committee

Crop Walk

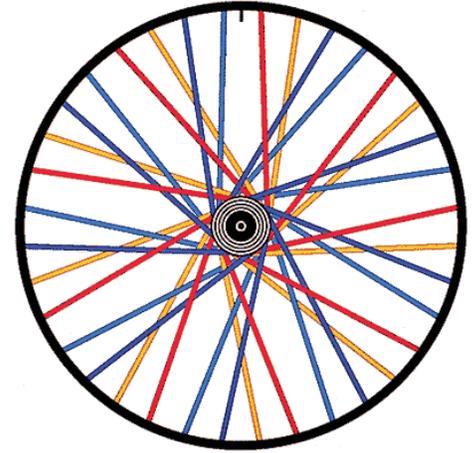
Please make plans to join us for the Elgin CROP Hunger 5K Walk on October 17th, 2010. Registration begins at 1:30 at the Civic Center Plaza, Symphony Way in Downtown Elgin. The walk begins promptly at 2:00. Both walkers and sponsors are needed; donation envelopes will be available after Sunday services in the church lobby through the date of the walk. Additionally, you may contact [Melissa Owens](#) or visit the team donation site.

CROP Walks are an annual event sponsored by Church World Service. CROP stands for Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty. 75% of the money raised supports hunger and emergency relief work worldwide through CWS and their partnering agencies. The remaining 25% stays local, supporting the member food pantries of the Elgin Cooperative Ministries. No donation is too small to help, and everyone is welcome to walk — bring the entire family for a fun fall afternoon!



Happy Birthday to You!

October	16	Joy Shores	
3	Nikolas Spayne	17	Shirley Wolin
6	David Zobott	17	Jim Hermann
8	Charlie Schmidlin	18	Jason Engel
12	Laurie Kiesewetter	18	Amy Schmidlin
13	Todd Owens	19	Betsy Thrasher
15	Nicole Stecker	20	Anne Clough
16	Chris Davis	30	Emma Brosier
	30	Mason Freeman	



Wheel of Life

We are saddened by the death of Marianne Lyons after a long illness.

Making Wisdom Rise Again

The best way to ensure that Wisdom Rising (WR) will happen again is to become part of the team that makes it happen. We will be having our first organizational meeting for WR 2011 some time in October. Please e-mail **Debbie Caruso** if you are interested in helping. Areas that need a committed warm body are lunch coordinator, vendor coordinator, keynote handler, workshop presenter finder and/or coordinator, advertising/marketing specialist(s) or just being a general helper wherever needed. People's availability will determine which Sunday in October we will meet after church.

We received overwhelming positive feedback from both the 2009 and 2010 endeavors and so 2011 has enormous potential. Our first fundraiser will happen at the beginning of November. Wisdom Rising is a church community building event that also reaches out to the greater Elgin community

and beyond. To see what we have done in the past, go to www.ucewisdomrising.com

Please Update Your Directory Listing

Have you changed your name, address, email or phone number? Please take a moment to review your listing in the church directory and contact administrator@uce.org with any updates. The 2010-2011 directory will be published soon.

Status of Member Pledges

Year to Date actual:
\$39,205.72

Year to Date budget:
\$28,323.30



Ways to Get in Touch

WEBSITE

www.uuce.org

E-MAIL

minister@uuce.org
administrator@uuce.org
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

Harvest Celebration

All are invited to harvest organic turnips, carrots and onions on Saturday, October 30, at 9:00 a.m. in the Community Garden. We will also put away the hoses, replenish the soil, and tuck in the garden for a long winter's nap under a thick blanket of leaves (PLEASE BRING LEAVES). This is an excellent activity for whole families to come out and play together.

Our garden is a charter member of the Elgin Community Garden Network, which teaches sustainable skills and gives 100% of the harvest to Elgin's soup kitchens, food pantries, shelters and crisis centers.



The Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin

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