



OCTOBER 2011

Unichord

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF ELGIN

Make Hunger History

October 16 will be a red-letter day for the Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin. Not one, not two, but three opportunities will give church members and friends a chance to “walk” their talk.

CROP WALK

Last year, UUCE raised \$1,950 for the Elgin CROP Hunger Walk! Woot! In all, just over \$20K was raised by participating churches in Elgin, which is a phenomenal amount.

Hosted by the [Church World Service](#) (CWS), annual CROP Walks invite participants to raise money to combat hunger by walking or by making donations to support walkers. CROP stands for Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty. Seventy-five percent of the money raised supports hunger and emergency relief work worldwide through CWS and their partnering agencies. The remaining twenty-five percent stays local, supporting the member food pantries of the Elgin Cooperative Ministries. CROP Walks thereby help to alleviate both global and domestic hunger.

We would love to have you join us for this year's Walk on Sunday, October 16th, 2011.



Registration begins at 1:30 at the Civic Center Plaza/Hemmens Court, on Symphony Way in Downtown Elgin. The 4.5K 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](#).

No donation is too small to help, and everyone is welcome to walk — bring the entire family for a fun fall afternoon!

HARVEST

After church on October 16, meet at our commUUnity garden

to pick the last of the season's produce. Elgin Cooperative Ministries will partner with the UUCE to deliver 100% of the food directly to Elgin's food pantries, shelters, and soup kettles.

FOOD PANTRY

In August, the All People's Inter-Faith Pantry supplied food to 440 families ... accommodating 1,614 people.

These numbers continue to grow, and the Pantry is low on juice, peanut butter, jelly, and canned meats. Any cereal except oatmeal would also be a big help. The Pantry also distributes hand and laundry soap, so these are helpful items, too.

Our Pantry Sunday is October 2. Of course, donations are welcome any time during the month.

MAKING HUNGER HISTORY ON OCTOBER 16:

10:45—You DO Make a Difference

12:15—Harvest our commUUnity garden

1:30—Register for CROP Walk

Anytime—Make a Food Pantry donation

From the Minister

If all goes well, we will in the not too distant future be installing solar panels on our roof to



generate electricity. This is a very exciting project of which we have dreamed for a number of years, and I believe will have a ripple effect in the Elgin area.

Here is some basic information:

- The project is heavily dependent on receiving state and federal incentives.
- It will be a 10kW system composed of 40 panels with micro inverters.
- It is funded by Suzanne and Paul Hanifl.
- It will produce around 1/3 of the electricity we use.
- It will be connected to the power grid so any excess energy we produce will be used by other sources, and we will get credit for this, which we can use to lessen our own electric costs.
- When the sun goes down, and the panel stops producing electricity, we will draw the electrical energy we need from the grid.
- The company doing the work is Solar Service, which has 30 years of experience installing solar electric and solar heat panels.
- Maintenance seems to be fairly minimal on such an array—rain should keep the panels clean.
- There will be web-based monitoring which means that from a computer we can check out how the panels are functioning at any time.

If you have any questions, send them my way and we will get answers for you.

— Dan

A Month of Sundays

10/2: Fearing Intimacy

We want it so deeply and yet it so often terrorizes us. It is the tragic human dilemma. Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

10/9: What Happens While You Are Planning Something Else

Columbus Day reminds us that, so often, we plan to “discover” certain experiences and frequently find something different. Service led by Elizabeth Closson.

10/16: You Do Make A Difference

Today is the annual CROP Walk to raise money for the hungry. We celebrate the ways in which each of us makes a difference in the world. Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

10/23: Speaking Peace

The practice of speaking peace is fundamental to creating a world driven more by love than fear. Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

10/30: The Celts and Halloween

Most of our Halloween traditions are firmly rooted in Celtic culture. It is but one of many ways the Celtic tradition still influences our lives. 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

Board of Trustees

October 19 at 7:00 in the Fellowship Hall

Book Group

October 24 at 12:30 (offsite)

Book Club, Evening

October 21 at 7:00 (offsite)

Covenant Group

October 4 and 25 at 7:00 (offsite)

Crop Walk

October 16

Executive Team Meetings

October 5 and 19 at 12:30

Finance Team Meeting

October 12 at 7:00

Fall Leadership Retreat

October 22 at 8:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

New U

October 16 and 23 at 12:45 in room 301

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](#). This session will run two consecutive Sundays beginning on October 16 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 so indicate on the sign-up sheet by October 9. If you have any questions, call Dan Brosier at the church.

qUUilters

October 1 from 9 to noon in room 302

R.E.E. Campout

October 14 at 7:00 p.m. to October 15 at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

R.E.E. Halloween Party

October 30 at 12:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Social Justice Council

October 26 at 7:00 in the Fellowship Hall

Western Crescent Ministers' meeting

October 19 at 11:00 in room 301

SPECIAL WORKSHOP

Get the Word Out!

When: Saturday, October 22, 8:30am - Noon

Where: Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin

How do we explain UUism to the world? What do we tell people when we're asked about our faith? Who are UUs? What do we believe? How can we get the word out about Unitarian Universalism in general and UUCE specifically? Bring your creativity, dramatic and artistic talents, as we discuss, develop and create ideas for answering these questions in our everyday lives. We will also work on ideas for creating online videos to present ourselves to the world...



Buddhist Group

Every Thursday at 7:00 in rooms 301 and 302

Candlelight Labyrinth Walk

October 30 at 6:30 in the Sanctuary and Labyrinth

CommUUnity Garden Harvest Celebration

October 16 at 12:15

Committee on the Ministry

October 5 at 7:00

Landscape and Grounds Work Parties

October 9 and 23 at 12:30



Lifespan Religious Exploration and Education



The new church year is off to a great start! We have two offerings in Adult Spirituality: Building Your Own Theology and Unitarian Universalism and The Gospels According to the Simpsons. Both programs are at 9am every Sunday on the third floor.

For the children and youth, we are focusing on Unitarian Universalist Identity and world religions. If you haven't already picked up a copy of the prospectus, you can get one at the Welcome Table by the name tags. A registration form is inside as well, if you have yet to sign up your child(ren).

Since our campout last May was a success, the Religious Exploration and Education Team is hosting another one on October 14. Bring s'mores, snacks, drinks and camping chairs and enjoy a campfire and camaraderie. Those who wish to camp overnight will get a pancake breakfast.

Halloween is also coming up, along with a lot of requests for a party. The Religious Exploration and Education Team is coordinating a child-friendly party after the service on October 30. This will be a potluck with a costume parade and walk through the cemetery next door. We are looking for people of all ages to help decorate, set up, and other small tasks. Look for more information on the email list and order of service.

Of course, we also have religious exploration and education classes! Here's what's happening:

October 2

Preschool: Congregations Are For Caring

K-2: Each Person Is A Treasure

3-5: Dussehra

6-8: What Faiths?

High School: Treasure Everywhere

October 9

Preschool: Each Tree Is Special

K-2: The Power of our Hearts and Minds

3-5: Ramadan

6-8: The Jewish Faith

High School: Unitarian Universalism – The Journey Starts at Home

October 16

Preschool: We Must Care For the Trees

K-2: Problem Solving

3-5: Sukkot

6-8: Exploring Judaism

High School: Indigenous Religions – The Earth Speaks

October 23 Prairie Seed Picking

October 30

Preschool: Monsters Can Be Nice

K-2: Making Friends of Our Fears

3-5: UNICEF Day

6-8: Visiting a Synagogue

High School: Hinduism – One God, A Thousand Faces

In Faith,
—Kathy

Pagans Host 7th Annual Candlelight Walk

Pagan Unity will host the 7th Annual Candlelight Walk at 6:00 p.m. on October 30th; all are invited to honor the beloved departed as well as ancestors.

Please bring a candle in a jar and a photo of your departed loved one for the memory altar that we'll build beforehand in the Sanctuary. After lighting altar candles, we'll walk the sacred path, and light the way to beyond the veil for those who have crossed over in the past year.



Budgeted: \$26,611



Actual: \$20,258

Member Pledges as of August 31

PRESIDENT'S REFLECTIONS

“This little light-emitting-diode of mine, I'm gonna let it shine...”

Throughout the years, the UUCE Green Sanctuary Committee has done a terrific job of educating and reminding us of how we can be actively engaged in being effective environmental stewards for Mother Earth. Some of the earth friendly lessons include recycling, composting, lobbying for environmental policy issues and purchasing energy efficient appliances and vehicles.

Armed with this knowledge, I recently came across an article in the New York Times – **“Almost Time to Change the Bulb”** by Bob Tedeschi – that provides a comprehensive review of the bulb choices to consider as federal law increasing the efficiency standards for incandescent bulbs takes effect. Chris and I use compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs) in 95% of the light fixtures in our home, and we even use a few LEDs on a regular basis. We considered using LEDs in canister fixtures we recently installed above our kitchen countertops, but our electrician said that his supplier didn't have the dimmable type. LED bulbs are expensive (\$40) but have an expected life of 25,000 hours compared to a CFL life of 6,600 hours (all CFLs aren't created equally as a few of ours

have fizzled after only a few months of use). Finally, if you have some aluminum, indium and gallium nitride lying around the house, you may be able to build your own LED light.

—Tim

Scrip It Good!

The beginning of the new church year also means the beginning of the second year of UUCE's scrip fundraising program. After the service on Sundays you can order scrip cards for your favorite merchants—retailers like Jewel, Starbucks, Panera, etc.—at the scrip table in the downstairs lobby. The church receives from 4% to 14% of the purchase price of each card, which you redeem at full value. For more information, see the article in your September *Unichord*, the insert in Sunday's order of service, or contact [Alice Macy](#) or [Sandy Webster](#). To see the current list of scrip retailers go to www.glscrip.com and click on "retailer list."

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

24 August 2011

Attending: T. Davis, D. Clough, S. Day, B. Cooper-Zobott, A. Budasi, A. Schmidlin, B. Thrasher

Solar Panel discussion: S. Reynolds, D. Brosier, M. Brinker, S. Smagatz, A. Macy (ET), J. Kimball (ET)

Reports

- Budget Report – due to an error in the formula used to create the annual budget (page 4 of July budget report) the church is under budget by \$6,482.

- Earmarked Funds Report – line items that have been zeroed out will be removed.
- Executive Team Report – one member needed for nominating committee.

Unfinished Business

- Nominating committee to be formally merged with committee of the ministry.
- Board approved installment of solar panels on the church roof.

New Business

None.

Kudos

... to Norm Wilkinson for his super human efforts around the labyrinth this summer

...to the small but mighty group of labyrinth workers who have also continued to labor: Andrew Russel, Dan Brosier, Dave Segel, David Yaeger, Debbie Caruso, Doug Pratt, Gloria Yaeger, Jason Engel, Louette Rogers, Mila Brinker, Mystery Person(s), Reve Rogers, Sandy Russel, Stacey Reynolds, Tom Scott, and friends of the church Matt Hutchinson and Renata Robertson.

...to the Organization of Latin American Students (OLAS) from Elgin Community College (ECC), who devoted a morning to completing ALL of the mulching for the commUUnity garden: Chloe, David, Ilan, Ismael, Joel, Reuben, and Sam.



A Very Special Kudos

After years of spearheading and being heavily involved in countless green projects for the Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin, Mary Alice Masonick has stepped down as Green Sanctuary Director to take a long overdue break.

Together with a team of dedicated volunteers, Mary Alice has championed our native Illinois prairie landscape, green practices throughout our church building, winter farmers' markets, fair trade coffee, and of course, the earning of our Green Sanctuary certification from the Unitarian Universalist Association. Over the years, she has inspired dozens of church members to get behind such projects as carbon offsets—which is why our Fellowship Hall proudly displays the banner "This Church is Powered by Wind!"

So the next time you turn off lights in an empty room, eat from a non-disposable plate in our kitchen, or admire our thriving prairie, take a moment to give thanks. Without the passion of Mary Alice and people like her, we would not be who we are today.

Handbells Ring On

For the love of bells, and former Bell Choir Director Margot Cusimano, the Unichords continue their tradition of making beautiful music for the Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin. The ringers polished the bells on August 27 and began rehearsing for the year on September 11. Shown below at the Annual Polish Bell Party: Kevin Webster, Lydia Clough, Joe Cusimano, and Doug Pratt.



“Your Idea Here”

Do you have a passion you'd like to share? Consider offering a program at the church! Here's what to do:

1. Complete a Program Proposal Form online or in the church office.
2. Submit your proposal to the Program Council electronically, or in their church mailbox. The Council will get back to you in about two weeks.
3. When your program is approved, submit a Room Request Form online; hard copies are located in the hallway outside of the office. The Church Administrator will notify you if your request is accepted.
4. Advertise your program, including date, time and location, in at least three church communications: order of service, *Unichord* newsletter,



Wheel of Life

Mary Alice Masonick's mother died peacefully on September 15, surrounded by her loving family. Please keep the family in your thoughts.

UUCE announcements e-list, dry erase board by the elevator, mailings, or the information table by the nametags.

If you have any questions on this procedure, just ask. We're glad to help!

—Your Program Council,
Alice Macy, Kathy Underwood,
and Jane Kimball

Reading by Starlight...

The UUCE evening book club will meet on Friday, October 21 at 7:00 PM at the Panera Bread on Randall Road, just north of I-90, on the west side of the street.

Instead of reading and discussing Dickens' "David Copperfield," we will choose the book list for 2012, so please start thinking about your new year's reading wish list. Can't be there? Send in your titles to [Beth Cooper-Zobott](#) by October 19 and they will be included in the discussion.

Feel free to start reading "Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln" by Doris Kearns

Goodwin, for the November meeting.

The evening book club meets on the third Friday of each month at this Panera restaurant. The address is 2484 N. Randall Road, Elgin, IL 60123, and the phone number is 847/426-7000.



...or Afternoon Sun

The Afternoon Book Group will meet at 12:30 on Monday, October 24, at the home of Jane Kimball to discuss "Little Bee" by Chris Cleave. For more information contact [Alice Macy](#).

October Birthdays

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

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

Earth Wisdom Labyrinth

We began resurfacing in May and as of the end of September, our progress has been nothing short of incredible. Due to the efforts of the dedicated few (20-25 people), a miraculous transformation has occurred. The woodchips, which had become mulch fostering an annual blanket of weeds, have almost all been removed! One whole pile of limestone paver has been laid down and we're still working on laying down a second truckload. Pictures of our progress can be seen on Facebook where there is an [Earth Wisdom Labyrinth](#) page, so please take a look and click the "Like" button.

We've only got one more month to go before Winter closes in on us. Half of the Labyrinth still needs to be covered with limestone. And, many hands make the work go faster. If you haven't had the opportunity to help yet, then please make the commitment to join us for a couple of hours on at least one Saturday morning in October, beginning at 9:00am to help us complete the task!



The Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin

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