



NOVEMBER 2010

Unichord



THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF ELGIN

Fourth Annual Fall Harvest Market

Sunday, November 14 from noon to 3 pm

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin is hosting another combination winter farmers' market and artisan fair on November 14th. Participating artisans include Sandy & Gordon James (jewelry and sculpture), Dotty Carrangi (gift cards and prints), Jen & Stephen Day (natural, homemade soaps) and Sue Niedzwiecki (knitted afghans, scarves, slippers, and dog treats).

The Winter Farmers' Market will be a true smorgasbord of harvest delights! Some or all of the following products are anticipated: Hormone- and antibiotic-free meats, poultry & fish ~ yarns, woolen goods & raw fibers ~ honey, preserves & fruit butters ~ infused

vinegars ~ fresh & dried herbs ~ apples & cider ~ dried fruits ~ mushrooms ~ pastries, breads, croissants & tarts ~ spa & beauty products ~ salsas, soups & sauces ~ farmstead soaps ~ cheese, yogurt & eggs ~ fresh lettuce & greens ~ squash & root vegetables ~ maple & sorghum syrup ~ honey & soy candles ~ vegan cookies & muffins ~ organic tomato juice & bloody mary mix ~ flour & corn meal ~ locally-sourced ice cream & sorbet ~ fair-trade coffee, tea, & chocolate ~ pickled vegetables ~ recycled wearables & shopping bags . . . and so much more!

Sales are on a cash basis only.

Invite family and friends to this unique market! Watch for flyers to email to friends or post

at your work, gym, coffee shop, anywhere.

These off season markets help sustain local farmers who are committed to sustainable agriculture. Winter is a challenging time for them and these markets help them sell their products. Consumers like us benefit by being able to choose wholesome natural food products which are produced locally.

The winter farmers markets in the Chicago area are organized through Faith In Place, a multi-faith organization headed by the Reverend Clare Butterfield, a Unitarian Universalist minister and friend of our church. It is wonderful to see Unitarian Universalism as an integral part of the winter farmers' market movement!

...and speaking of food...

The All People's Inter-Faith Pantry is now able to distribute meat! They request donations of packages of mashed potatoes along with cans of gravy and canned vegetables to go with the meat. Of course, all the old standbys of cereal, juice, peanut butter and jelly are still needed.

Try to bring your donations on our Pantry Sunday, November 7. If you prefer to make a cash donation to the Pantry, make your check out to the All People's Inter-Faith Pantry and give it to Bob Jackson or Henny DuBois.

From the Minister

For the last year or so the Canvass Team has been using the book *Creating Congregations of Generous People* to guide their work. One of the major points the book makes is to keep the issue



of generosity front and center in the congregation. It encourages canvass leaders to not wait until two weeks before the campaign to talk about financial generosity. Instead, make it a part of an every day mindset—normalize it—let the

congregation get used to the notion that they can be generous people and that it is good to be generous.

And now the newly created strategic plan weighs in. One of the goals is that by April of 2014 our average pledge will be 3% of our gross income. That is the definition of financial generosity in this church. We believe if we received that level of financial support that we would have the financial resources to make our dreams come true.

I believe it is a worthwhile and achievable goal. It would make a difference in the life of our religious community and it would make a difference in the lives of those who give so generously. If you are not one of those, now is the time to begin imagining how you might become one.

— Dan

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 November this charitable organization is the Anderson Animal Shelter. 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.

A Month of Sundays

NOVEMBER

11/7: That's So Neuro-Typical of You!

We pride ourselves on being welcoming to everyone and embracing our differences, and yet many of us do not fully understand how people who think and process information differently can be both enriching and challenging in the life of a community. Aspergers Syndrome is one kind of difference in the way people think and sometimes act. As diagnosis of autism spectrum disorders has become more prominent, we have much to learn from our differently-abled friends. Service led by Kim Cecil.

11/14: All Music Sunday

Come join us for our annual fall Music Sunday when we celebrate the music of this church. You are invited to sit back and let the spirit of the music move you. During the service we will have a special offering in support of the music program. Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

11/21: Breaking Bread Together

Our annual bread communion service when we recognize and celebrate the gifts that come through community. Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

11/28: That Lonesome Valley

Depression is a common dis-ease of the spirit, yet it is widely misunderstood. Villa Street will perform. Service led by the Donna Askins.

All services begin at 10:45.

November Calendar

Worship Services

Sunday mornings at 10:45

Adult R.E.

Sunday mornings at 9:00 in rooms 301 and 302

Afternoon Book Group

November 29 at 12:30 (offsite)

ALL MUSIC SUNDAY

November 14 at 10:45

Bell Practice

November 7, 14, and 28 at 9:15

Bells Ring for Service

November 14

Board Meeting

November 17 at 7:00 in the Fellowship Hall

Buddhism Group

Every Thursday at 6:30 in rooms 301 and 302

Choir Practice

November 4, 11, and 18 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Committee on the Ministry

November 3 at 7:30

Covenant Group

November 2, 16 and 30 at 7:00 (offsite)

Evening Book Group

November 19 at 7:00 (offsite)

Executive Team Meetings

November 3 and 17 at 1:00

Farmers' Market

November 14 at 12:00

Finance Team Meeting

November 10 at 7:00

Green Sanctuary Meeting

November 21 at 12:30 in room 301

Landscape and Grounds Work Party

November 14 at 12:30

qUilters

November 6 from 9 to noon in room 302

UNICHORD DEADLINE November 21

Western Crescent Ministers' Meeting

November 17 at 11:00 in room 301

Wisdom Rising Fundraiser

November 13 at noon in the Sanctuary

Member Pledge Information

As of the end of September:

- The year to date actual pledge income was \$45,335
- The year to date budgeted pledge income was \$40,535

UUCE Readers

Afternoon Book Group will meet at 12:30 on Monday, November 29, at the home of Bonnie Schwank to discuss *The Ten-Year Nap* by Meg Wolitzer.

Evening Book Group will meet at 7:00 on Friday, November 19, at the home of Beth Cooper-Zobott to discuss *Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen.

For more information, contact [Alice Macy](#).

The Unichord

Annual Members' Interest and Volunteer Survey

In the coming weeks, the Committee on the Ministry, along with the Shared Ministry Coordinator and the Nominating Committee, will be emailing our First Annual Members' Interest and Volunteer Survey. Please complete the survey as soon as possible so we can keep our membership records up-to-date. Hard copies will also be available at the church for those without access to the internet. If you have any questions, please contact [Stephen Day](#).

November 2010

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Lifespan Religious Exploration and Education



The beginning of the year flurry has now ended, and things are going smoothly. Registration for the children and youth programs has ended. We have three new families this year: the Kurtzes, the Burgers, and the Janus. We warmly welcome them and look

forward to getting to know them better.

Last month, some of the high school youth attended our district's youth conference in Rockford. A huge "thank you" to Anne Clough and Amy Hill for chaperoning them! This will be the last "CON" for the year. Due to budget restrictions, the district has decided not to have a winter or spring CON. In the meantime, they are looking at all of the congregations' needs in regards to youth and young adult programming. If you have any feedback on how you would like to see the district aid our congregations in this area, let me know and I will pass it on.

On a more personal note, I want to say "thank you" to Dan for his overly kind words and recognition ceremony in celebration of my 15th year here as a religious educator. It

is a profession that I have grown into over the years. I have had a lot of help, support, and guidance along the way from so many people—here at UUCE, from colleagues around the district, my family, and a few close friends. Like all jobs, there are good things and bad, but I can truly say that my job here is far more weighted to the good side! Thank you all again for your kind words, and support over the years.

In Faith,

—Kathy

**Help a child:
Build a blanket**

The QUUilters are gathering Saturday, November 6 to make quilts for ill and at risk children. No experience needed. We'll show you how to make a kid feel better because of the handmade blankie you helped build. 9 am-12 pm, Room 302.

What's Happening With Our Youth This Month

	Preschool	K-2nd	3rd-5th	6th-8th	High School
Nov. 7	I Can Share	Caring & Uncaring	Respecting Others	War & Peace	Hope
Nov. 14	Music Sunday – No Classes High School Youth outing after the service				
Nov. 21	I Can Taste	Friends & Enemies	Creative Conflict Resolution	The UU Story & Vision	Nurturing the Spirit
Nov. 28	I Can Say "Thank You"	Friendship	Creative Conflict Resolution II	A Closer Look	Reason
	Preschool	K-2nd	3rd-5th	6th-8th	High School

President's Reflections

The 2010 Strategic Plan has been approved and released, and the Board of Trustees would appreciate your feedback. Over the next several weeks the Strategic Plan will be distributed in multiple ways so that you will have a chance to review it, and to get involved in putting it into action. I'm working on an issue with the size of the file right now, but I'll get that worked out and send it on via email soon.

It is time to start thinking about nominations to the Board of Trustees and committees for 2011. If you are interested in getting involved in the Church or know someone who is, please let me know, and I can provide any information you need about the available positions.

We're moving swiftly into the holiday season, which is both a blessing and, sometimes, a curse. There's lots of shopping to be done if you give gifts at Christmas, which is fun, but also can be expensive, and not so much the point of the season. If you celebrate Thanksgiving, make sure to take time off from the stresses of the day to re-connect with relatives you haven't seen in a while.

It's also time to look back at your plans for the year and see what's left to be done. Here's hoping you've had a full and productive year so far, and best wishes for the season ahead.

— [Kevin Sweeney](#)

Highland Avenue Litter Pick-up

Our church has adopted a section of Highland Avenue to keep clean by removing litter along the road. Adult volunteers are needed to join our litter pick-up on Sunday, November 7 at 12:15, which is being organized by our Green Sanctuary Committee. Volunteers should dress to work outside and bring gloves. Please contact [Joe Masonick](#) for more information.

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

15 September 2010

Attending: Jennifer Day, Kevin Sweeney, Betsy Thrasher, Andrea Budasi, Dan Brosier, Shari Smagatz, Andrea Schmidlin, Beth Cooper-Zobott

Reports

- Budget, Earmarked Funds, Executive Team, and Nominating Committee Reports approved by consensus.
- No Monitoring Report this month

Unfinished Business New Business

- Strategic Plan ET Meeting – general discussion.
- Review of updated policies - general discussion.
- Board Retreat planning – time and location set for Board Retreat.

Kudos

... to Dan Brosier for making shelves in the AV closet

... to Norm Wilkinson for hanging posters in REE classrooms

... to Anne Clough and Amy Hill for chaperoning our youth.



Crop Walk Update

We had an absolutely beautiful day for our CROP Hunger Walk on October 17th. Seven of us from UUCE gathered at the Elgin Civic Center Plaza just before 2:00 p.m., registered, and set off on the 5K walk through downtown Elgin. To date, we have raised at least \$1847; this means a direct donation in the amount of \$462 will go to the Elgin food ministries. The balance of the money goes to Church World Service and its affiliated agencies for hunger relief work abroad and in the United States.

A big Thank You to Bob Jackson, Kevin Webster, Tim Davis, Sara Haase, Joe Imhoff, and Todd Owens for their support and participation in the walk. And an equally big Thank You to everyone who sponsored walkers or who donated to the team in general. It's an honor to walk in representation of such a generous group of people! Lastly, I'm going to be a proud mom and give a shout-out to Andrew, who certainly earned his dessert that night for walking the entire 5K!

If you missed sponsoring the walk, there is still time to [donate online](#) on the team page. The page stays active through the rest of the year. Thanks again!!

GREEN CORNER

Take Back the Tap!

From www.foodandwaterwatch.org:

For your health, your pocketbook, and our environment

Consumers are wasting billions of dollars a year on billions of gallons of bottled water in large part because advertising spin has led them to believe that water in a bottle is safer or better than tap water.

Truth is, tap water generally is just as safe, clean, and healthy as bottled water, and in many cases more so. In fact, the federal government requires far more rigorous and frequent safety testing and monitoring of municipal drinking water.

Bottled water causes many equity, public health, and environmental problems. Beverage companies often take water from municipal or underground sources that local people need. As much as 40 percent of bottled water comes from the tap. Producing plastic bottles uses energy and emits toxic chemicals. Transporting the bottled water spews pollution into the air, adding to global climate change.

Tap water costs about \$0.002 per gallon compared to the \$0.89 to \$8.26 per gallon charge for bottled water.

Giving up bottled water helps our environment. Annual production of the plastic bottles for water takes the equivalent of about 17.6 million barrels of oil, not including the cost of transporting the bottled water to consumers.

Worldwide bottling of water uses about 2.7 million tons of plastic each year. And in the end, about 86 percent of the empty plastic water bottles in the United States land in the garbage instead of being recycled. [Take Back the Tap!](#)

—The UUCE Green Sanctuary Committee

—Melissa Owens

Happy Birthday to You!

November

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------|----|---------------------|
| 2 | Henny DuBois | 27 | Elizabeth Olson |
| 2 | Kerry Lantau | 27 | Debbie Garman |
| 6 | Mary Alice Masonick | 27 | Mara Jade Clough |
| 7 | Kay Kummerow | 29 | Maureen Navadomskis |
| 7 | Miles Anderson | 29 | Sara Mertens |
| 10 | Sylvie Colburn | | |
| 11 | Phil Webster | | |
| 13 | Betsi Waldron | | |
| 15 | Andrea Schmidlin | | |
| 16 | Camilla Rose Hussein | | |
| 16 | Sue Sitter | | |
| 20 | Bonnie Schwank | | |
| 25 | Manish Jyoti | | |
| 25 | Michelle Sweeney | | |
| 26 | Norm Wilkinson | | |
| 26 | Helen King | | |

WISDOM RISING FUNDRAISER Emotional Freedom and Applied Kinesiology Workshop

Just in Time for the holidays. Release Stress, Fears, Anger, Grief and MORE! Join us on Nov. 13th from noon to 2:30 for EFT (Emotional Freedom Technique) & AK (Applied Kinesiology/muscle testing). Tom Masbaum, BS, EFT-ADV will be our facilitator, www.EFT-Tom.com to find out more about Tom. This event, which is open to the public, benefits Wisdom Rising; the fee is a donation. Give what your heart feels is right. By providing these special programs to benefit Wisdom Rising we

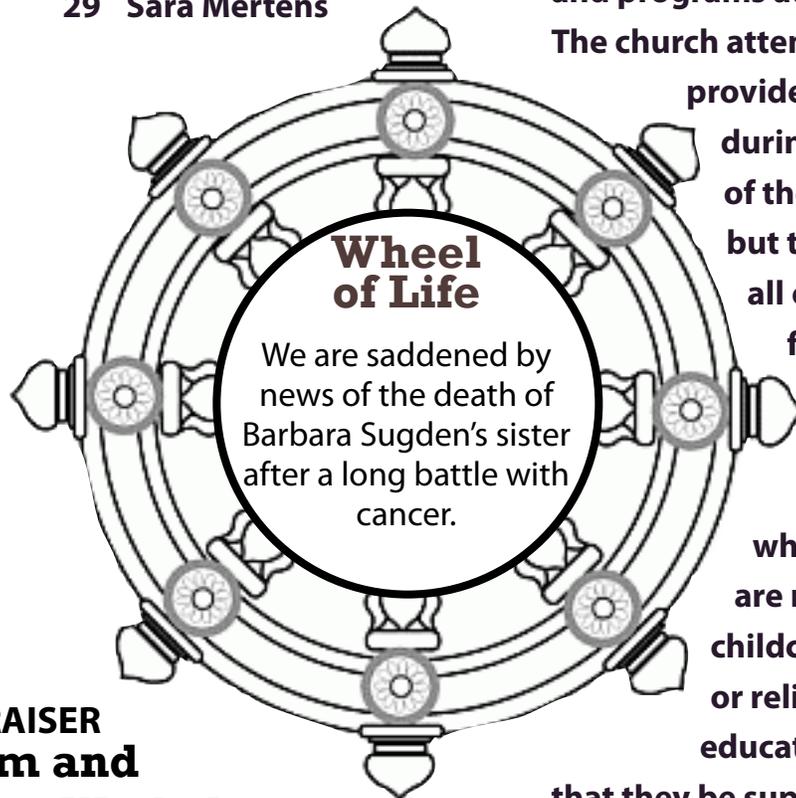
are able to keep the fees for Wisdom Rising very low. Thank you so much for your support. EFT is a very popular "tapping" technique that is used world wide by both health care professionals and lay people. Please RSVP, so we know how many hand out copies to make, to debcaruso@yahoo.com with the Subject line: UUCE EFT RSVP. See you there for a fun and informative session! If you are wondering what is Wisdom Rising then check out our website of past events www.uucewisdomrising.com.



There are a lot of activities and programs at the UUCE. The church attempts to

provide childcare during a number of these activities, but to do so for all of them is not feasible. For the sake of safety, we ask that when children are not in a childcare program or religious education program

that they be supervised by their parent(s). This means children should be in proximity to their parents (at least on the same floor), with the parents knowing where they are and what they are doing. In general, children should not be roaming the building on their own. Conversation between adults is a big part of our community life, but this should not mean that children are unattended.



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.

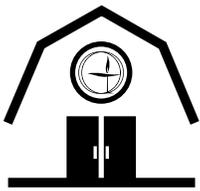
POSTAL MAIL

P. O. Box 1032
Elgin, IL 60121

Harvest Results!

On Saturday, October 30, our Community Garden yielded 76.5 pounds of tasty organic vegetables! Thanks to ALL who harvested, cleaned, and bagged the produce for distribution to Elgin's hungry. Volunteers also put away the hoses, replenished the soil, and tucked in the garden for a long winter's nap under a thick blanket of leaves. Several families attended, along with a few Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts. Most participants were new people, and two families are thinking of joining the church.

Our garden is a proud charter member of the [Elgin Community Garden Network](#).



The Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin

P. O. Box 1032 • Elgin, IL 60121

