



APRIL 2015

Unichord



THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF ELGIN

Think Globally...

Commit2Respond, a coalition of Unitarian Universalists and other people of faith and conscience working for climate justice, goes above and beyond celebrating Earth Day. Climate Justice Month, which began on World Water Day (March 22) and goes through Earth Day (April 22), is jam-packed with tools, forums, inspirations and more. Each of the four weeks has a specific focus:

Week 1: Rejoicing and celebrating our natural world and its gifts

Week 2: Reckoning with and grieving the loss we are confronting, as well as other impacts of climate change

Week 3: Reconnecting with hope through relationships with front-line communities, exploring who is impacted by our current system

Week 4: Committing to long-term actions to shift energy, advance human rights, and grow the movement

During Climate Justice Month, all are invited to learn, reflect, and discern what long-term actions they and their families and/or congregations can take that will build resistance to climate change. People can

make and track commitments to action online. Suggestions for actions at all levels are available.

From a broader view, however, "Rather than simply taking on small actions for a month, we are setting aside a month to delve into our spiritual grounding for this work, deepen our learning, and intentionally decide how we can commit to transform our lives and our world... Committed action that springs from principled and spiritual grounding gets us through setbacks and compels us from a place of possibility and creativity."

...Act Locally

One of the actions suggested by Commit2Respond is the formation or strengthening of a Green Sanctuary. Congregants will have a major opportunity on April 19, when the Green Sanctuary hosts a brainstorming session to begin developing a Sustainability Master Plan for UUCE. Meet at noon in the sofa room on the third floor. Working together, our church can shift to a low-carbon future, advance human rights, and grow the movement.



JOIN

+



SHIFT

+



ADVANCE

+



GROW

Lise's Letter

As part of my role as UUCE's interim minister, on March 22, I preached about ministry from the minister's perspective. It's an important thing to consider since UUCE will be meeting its ministerial candidate at the end of this month and I'm sure everyone wants to enter this new relationship with healthy expectations. If you missed that service and are curious about what I said, I'm happy to pass on my sermon. If you don't want to read the whole thing, here are some highlights from both my and other minister's views:

- There are five main areas to which a minister directs their time: preaching, pastoral care, social justice, teaching and administrative arts.
- Pastoral care, developing trust and right relationship between a minister and a congregation, are the foundation of a healthy ministerial connection. Ministers will do their best to be present and available even during tough times.
- Ministers need to have enough self-awareness to take care of themselves and congregations need to remember ministers will never be perfect. Healthy boundaries are good as are days off and paid professional development time so the minister can have respite and renewal time.
- Freedom of the pulpit is very important so a minister can show their authentic self and be the best minister they can. Ours is a living tradition which means there is room to try new things, even on Sunday mornings.
- Each person's ministry will have different strengths and challenges, just as each congregation does.
- Ultimately, ministry is about knowing that we are co-creators in our world and encouraging others to come to and act on this same realization.

One more thing to consider this month:

- Please check out commit2respond.org for details about Climate Justice month, which started on March 22 and will continue through April 22, Earth Day. Many UUs are participating as we take a week each to respectively rejoice in our wonderful Earth, reckon with our current status and grief about what's happening, reconnect to positive possibilities and relationships for change and then commit (or recommit) to acting for change.

So many exciting things are happening!!!
Enjoy your month.

Love,
—Lise

Reverend Lise Adams Sherry,
Interim Minister

New Adult Spirituality Program Begins April 12

Meet on Sunday at 9:00 in room 301 for *Sources of Our Faith*. Most UUs are familiar with our Seven Principles, but not as much with our Six Sources, from which our living tradition draws. This program is centered on a collection of inspirational readings from many cultures and times. Organized by Source, and introduced with thoughtful essays from the editor, these readings are ideal for personal reflection. From the Qur'an to Margaret Fuller, from Rumi to Rebecca Parker, this broad range of poetry and prose will help deepen our understanding and connection to our faith.

A Month of Sundays: April

4/5: Multigenerational Easter Service

All ages are welcome for this multigenerational service as we explore the renewal and redemption of Easter with a UU lens. Service led by Reverend Lise Adams Sherry and DREE Kathy Underwood.

4/12: Growth Sunday

Over the last 20 months we've talked about the different types of growth that are important to a congregation and how UUCE could continue moving forward on this issue. Today we'll look at some practical aspects and experiment with how some things might change as UUCE grows. Service led by Reverend Lise Adams Sherry.

4/19: Regional Assembly Worship in Naperville, 9:30 or

Readings and Song about our Earth at UUCE with Rev. Lise Adams Sherry, 10:30

The Mid-American Regional Assembly is happening in Naperville April 17-19. While attending to hear the keynote speakers and participating in workshops does require a registration fee, the Sunday morning worship is free and open to the public at the Marriott Hotel (1801 North Naper Boulevard, Naperville, IL 60563). I (Lise) really hope you can attend as being in community with hundreds of UUs is quite something! Otherwise, join us at 10:30 at UUCE.

4/26: TBA

Services begin at 10:30

Litter Leader Needed for UUCE's Adopt-A-Highway



Interested in leading the UUCE litter cleanups along the road by the church? Please contact [Joe Masonick](#), who led this effort for years, for more information.

Surprise! Surprise!

Would you believe that the All People's Inter-Faith Pantry doesn't need cereal this time? They do need donations of one -pound bags of rice and pinto beans, cans of pork and beans, packages of dry spaghetti, canned fruit, and, of course, peanut butter and jelly.

Try to bring your contributions on our PANTRY SUNDAY, APRIL 5, but, as always, your donations are welcome any time during the month.

Lifespan Religious Exploration and Education



April and May will be very busy months at our prairie cathedral. Our high school youth are still planning to host their first-ever interfaith mini-conference April 24-25.

And, a new adult spirituality program, *Sources of Our Faith*, begins this month on April 12. The program is based on the book of the same title, which is a collection of inspirational readings from many cultures and times that provide a felt sense of the six sources of Unitarian Universalism. This program will meet through May 17 in Room 301 at 9:00. You can come for any or all sessions. If you wish to buy your own copy of the book, you can do so from the UUA bookstore for \$20.

In celebration of Earth Day, the young people will be going on a nature hike during the service on April 19. Parents interested in joining us are welcome to do so. I'll be sending out email announcements the week before.

On May 17, families will have the opportunity to volunteer at Feed My Starving Children in Schaumburg. Look for upcoming announcements for information on how to sign up and age requirements. We have participated in this program before, and had a wonderful experience.

Looking ahead, the Religious Exploration and Education Team is planning our programming for the summer. Do you have a hobby or interest that you could share with a small group of young people? In the past, some programs have been geocaching, photography, insects and frogs, and tie dye. The possibilities are endless! Perhaps you'd rather be given an idea and a program to follow? We can do that too. Let me know what interests you, and we'll help make it happen!

Here is what is happening this month:

APRIL 5

Easter Multigenerational – no REE classes

APRIL 12

Adult Spirituality at 9:00 in Room 301

Preschool “Spring Brings Color”

K-2 “Buddhism: Tenzin’s Deer”

3-5 “Buddha’s Story”

6-8 “Tibetan Book of the Dead Documentary”

High School Planning of Interfaith Con

APRIL 19

Adult Spirituality at 9:00 in Room 301

Preschool – 8 Earth Day Nature Hike

High School Last-minute preparations for the interfaith mini-con

APRIL 24-25

Interfaith Mini-Con for High School Youth

APRIL 25

Feed My Starving Children

– volunteer opportunity

APRIL 26

Adult Spirituality at 9:00 in Room 301

Chalice Circle in Room 302 at 10:30

Preschool “Spring Brings Changes”

K-2 “Buddhism: Brave Parrot”

3-5 “Buddha’s Teachings”

6-8 “Fundamentalism”

High School Celebratory brunch at a local restaurant

In Faith,
– **Kathy Underwood**
Director of Religious
Exploration and Education

President's Reflections



The UUCE congregation deserves a hearty congratulation for three things. First, our Birds of a Feather auction event was a huge success. Thanks to everyone who planned, organized, and worked so hard to make it a memorable one. Second, our Settled Minister Search Committee has nearly completed its mission. The committee has worked very hard. So much personal time was required of them and there was nary a complaint. Such dedication makes our beloved UU community

the best it can be. We are hopeful that after the April *Unichord* is distributed, a final decision will have been made by the Search committee for their recommended candidate as the new Minister of UUCE. If it all works out, then it will be the responsibility of all of us, the entire congregation, to approve or not to approve the Search Committee's recommended candidate. And finally, the third thing, it's spring. We can all defrost.

—Jun Yoshitani

President,
UUCE Board of Trustees

Book Group Goes Goony

The Afternoon Book Group will meet at 1:00 on Monday, April 27, at the home of Dotty Carrangi to discuss "[A Visit From the Goon Squad](#)" by Jennifer Egan. Contact [Alice Macy](#).

Writing Lessons

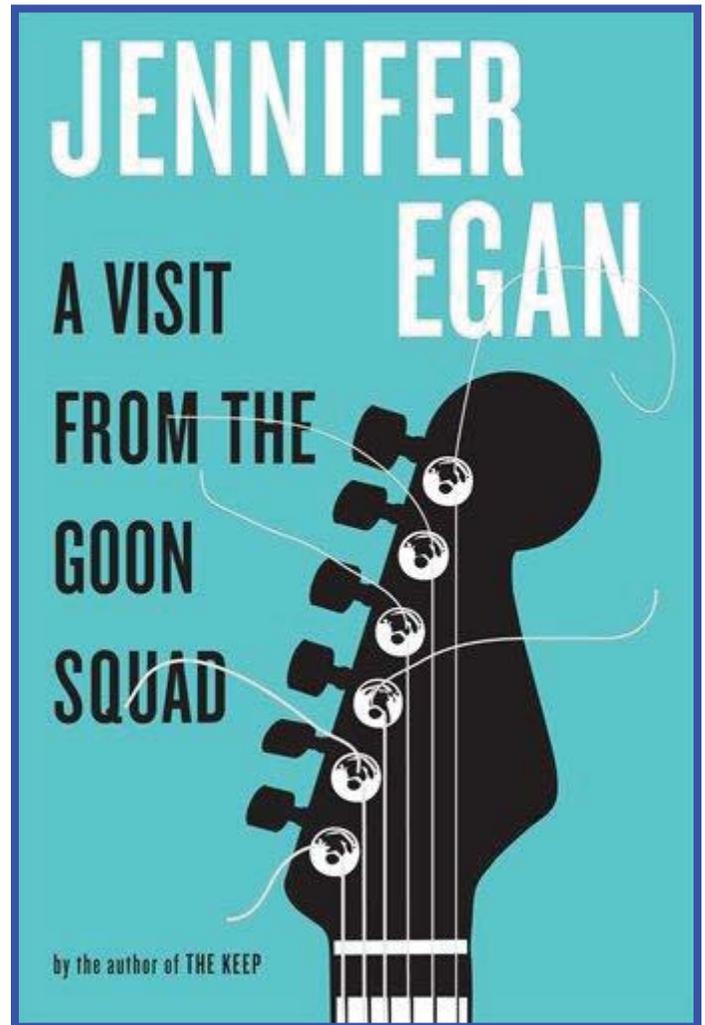
No, not that kind. The adult RE class that explored Writing as a Spiritual Practice has ended, but some of us are interested in continuing as a small group. If you would like to join us or have questions, please contact [Elizabeth Closson](#).



Kudos!

To Paige Fitton for offering to take all of the used CFL bulbs to Ace Hardware for safe disposal.

To Joe Masonick for recycling all of the used inkjet cartridges, earning office store credit for UUCE.



Learn About the Care Team

Who We Are:

The Care Team is a group of kind volunteers who serve to keep us all connected by reaching out to members and friends undergoing short-term health or other challenges. We serve as an outgrowth of the ministry of our beloved community by sending cards, visiting, providing meals, and otherwise keeping in touch in times of need.

Our community comprises a large geographic area, which we've subdivided into neighborhoods, each of which is headed up by an assigned Care Team captain, who is available for outreach to those families.

We also maintain a collection of medical equipment for loan.

Our name, the Care Team, might leave some confusion as to our intentions and imply that we can provide direct home health care to our dear friends, which we cannot do. Our mission is all about the compassionate side of caring.

In caring, we offer the strength and hope of fellowship, of loving connection, and a lifeline from the whole church community when needed.

— **Leslie Yoshitani**
Care Team Leader



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

If we missed your birthday this month, we apologize. Please let us know and we will add it to the list.

Pledges 4% Ahead

Total Pledge Income
Budgeted: \$113,022

Actual Pledge Income
Received: \$117,025



Difference: 4,005 (4% over)

UUCE Board of Trustees Minutes

February 18, 2015

Members present:

David Yaeger, Elizabeth Closson, Jamie Yucuis, Jun Yoshitani, Mary Knapp, Rev. Lise Adams Sherry, Stephen Day, Steve Stultz, Tim Davis

I. Opening

- a. Centering
- b. Approval of Agenda
- c. One minute check-ins
- d. Timer

II. Correction/Approval of January 21 Meeting Minutes

a. Motion made by Jamie Yucuis and seconded by Mary Knapp to approve the minutes. Motion passed.

III. Book Discussion

a. C o n g r e g a t i o n a l Leadership in Anxious Times – Chapter 5: Influencing the Emotional Field

i. Chapter five discussion, “Influencing the Emotional Field.”

IV. Special Focus on Growth

a. Task force (Rev. Lise, Elizabeth Closson, Jun Yoshitani) update.

i. Most frequently cited reason for not returning to a church they’ve visited is having them stand up and introducing them. Currently asking first-time visitors if they would like to be introduced.

ii. Task Force met and will have a Focus Group on Growth on April 12. Interactive service followed by potluck.

iii. New Member Class on March 8 and 22.

iv. The TF will meet to complete planning for this event.

v. Dan shared some ideas for Order of Service use and will share other ideas via email.

V. Reports

a. Financial Report/
Earmarked Funds Report

i. Report reviewed.

b. Minister’s Report and Q&A

i. Report reviewed.

c. Executive Team Report

i. Revised Church Facility Rental Rates

1. ET working on a review of rental rates. Updating needed.

d. DRE’s Report

i. Submitted. Still working on securing a child care position.

e. Transition Team Report

i. No report.

f. Personnel Team Report

i. Jun sent out a copy of the draft manual for review. Comments submitted. Will bring it to the BoT next month for approval.

g. Policy Governance Task Force Report

i. No report.

h. Stewardship Report

i. Viewed 2015 Stewardship Video.

VI. Unfinished Business

a. Cell tower

i. Where are we with information review?

1. To be reviewed next month.

b. Review and finalize Manual of Employment Policies and Practices

c. Minister as Chief of Staff

i. Reviewed the proposed Letter of Call. The language in the Letter of Call meets our needs.

VII. New Business

a. Hybrid Unitarian Universalist Leadership Team Institute (H-UULTI) www.cerguua.org/HUULTI

i. To be reviewed next month.

b. Regional UU Conference

i. Lydia Larrabee is interested in attending. Motion made by Jamie Yucuis to approve Lydia as a delegate. Seconded by Elizabeth Closson. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45.

Respectfully submitted,
– **Tim Davis**, Secretary

Ways to Get in Touch

WEBSITE

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E-MAIL

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administrator@uuce.org

newsletter@uuce.org

PHONE

847-888-0668

POSTAL MAIL

P. O. Box 1032

Elgin, IL 60121

PHYSICAL LOCATION

39W830 Highland Avenue

three miles west of

Randall Rd.



APRIL 12 IS BRING A FRIEND TO CHURCH DAY



The Unitarian Universalist

Church of Elgin

P. O. Box 1032 • Elgin, IL 60121



Sunday morning services begin at 10:30