



MAY 2013

Unichord



THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF ELGIN

Labyrinth River Runs Again

Please help maintain the Earth Wisdom Labyrinth. If you'd like to help weed or spread limestone, we've scheduled Saturday mornings on May 4th, May 18th & June 1st from 9:00 - 12:00 as group workdays. It was previously decided by the Landscaping Committee that more limestone paver was needed to widen the outer border, so funds were committed and the additional limestone has been purchased and delivered. Unfortunately, we had to cancel our first workday on April 20th due to Spring flooding. To see pictures of the flooding, please visit the Earth Wisdom Labyrinth Facebook page (no account needed). If you do use Facebook, please "like" the page.

The landscaping berm continues to turn the Labyrinth into a bowl of water, so the Labyrinth Task Force and Landscaping Committee will be meeting after service on May 19th to determine a solution. We've worked too hard and invested too much with the resurfacing to see it destroyed

by water damage. Fortunately, you can see in the pictures that the limestone, unlike the old wood chips, has not been "floated" out of place by the flooding.

This year we will be scheduling one monthly Group Labyrinth Walk on the 4th Wednesday of the month in the evenings from April through September. Each month will have a different leader and a different theme. We wanted to begin in April with an Earth Day Walk, but since the Labyrinth is under water at this time, we'll probably reschedule it

for July. In May, the theme of the walk will be Peace and honoring those who have fought and died for peace. In June, the theme will be Love and Right Relationship. We still need ideas and leaders for future walks!! Please don't hesitate to contact me through the Earth Wisdom Labyrinth's Facebook page. You can also RSVP for labyrinth maintenance and labyrinth walks via the Facebook page.

—Sandra Russel
Task Force Leader

Run, River, Run

This song, a favorite at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin (UUCE), tells of the way our lives change over time: "And it goes on and on / watching the river run / Further and further from things that we've done / Leaving them one by one. / And we have just begun / watching the river run / listening and learning and yearning / run, river, run."

The Annual Meeting at the UUCE marks a time when the congregation looks at the past year, and considers the church's future. As the Reverend Dan Brosier retires, and the church transitions to an interim minister, attendance at this year's Annual Meeting is especially important.

Please attend the Annual Meeting on May 5 at 12:30. This is a time when it is critical that we listen to and learn from one another. Thank you.

From the Minister



Often times in the past for my May newsletter column I have used what I submitted to the annual report. This year, once again, I continue the tradition.

The decision to retire this year came as a surprise to all of us. Little did I anticipate last year at this time that all the events in the following months would be my last as your minister. In fact it wasn't until December that I decided I could not keep up with the responsibilities I have enjoyed trying to fulfill for the past 25 years. The decades have flown by. For me, healthwise, it is the right decision, and so it is for the church which needs someone with energy and clarity of mind to serve it effectively.

I was lucky to have stumbled into this church community back in 1988 and it has been rewarding, meaningful and fun serving you through the years. What lies ahead—the transition first to an interim minister and then to a new settled minister—will involve some challenges. I believe, though, that the community is in a good place and it will continue to work together in the spirit of beloved community.

I want to thank all those who have pitched in these last several months during my absence to keep things going. I want to especially thank the Worship Committee who has taken over most of my worship responsibilities, the Executive Team (especially Kathy Underwood and Mila Brinker), and the Board of Trustees. Thanks to the efforts of many people I have been given the time I need and the church has continued to thrive.

I also thank my family—Katherine, Sam and Emma—who have made this journey with me

and have been patient with the demands on my time and focus that ministry calls for. They will be glad to have me available more.

I guess that as of the end of March I am retired. I still have a few things that I want to do, several services to lead, and an office to clean out; but most of my days no longer center around the church. So far it feels OK. My days fly by and I physically feel pretty good. My only complaint is that the weather has not been very conducive for fishing. But on the other hand I did get part of my garden planted and several rows of cold weather vegetables have poked their heads above the soil.

See you on the 19th.

—Dan

A Month of Sundays

5/5: I KNEW THAT

This is a look at some 'secrets' most of us know about how to experience meaning in our lives and an invitation to act on what we know. Service led by Elizabeth Closson.

5/12: WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

Finding the divine in the connections we share. Service led by Bridget Laflin.

5/19: TWO FAVORITE STORIES WITH MUSIC

This morning I share two of my favorite stories that I believe capture the spirit of our religious quest. The stories will be wrapped in a couple of musical pieces that speak to the spirit as well. Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

5/26: REMEMBERING THOSE WE HAVE LOST

Service led by Tim Closson.

All services begin at 10:45

Interim Minister Task Force Update

Our application for an Interim Minister was submitted to the UUA Transitions office on April 11th. On April 22nd we received the names of four candidates, all of whom are Accredited Interim Ministers with many years of ministerial experience. As you read this, we will have begun the interview process. We understand that the competition is fierce, with more churches than candidates in the first round. We will provide an update as soon as there is anything significant to report, via email, with a full report at the Annual Meeting.

—Andrea Schmidlin, Chair
Interim Minister Task Force

Central Midwest District Votes Yes To Regionalization

The final District vote just took place and all 3 Districts have now voted YES to creating the MidAmerica Region. The MidAmerica Region will have its own governing board, replacing Prairie Star, Central Midwest and Heartland District Boards as of July 1, 2013. Your UUA Field Staff have not changed and will continue to serve you.

The Three District Boards and UUA District Trustees, with gratitude in our hearts, THANK YOU for your participation, for reading numerous communications, for sending informed delegates to District meetings, for requesting almost 50 personal congregational presentations, and for considering our proposal.

It is not just a leap of faith into a way of being that will energize our members and take our faith into the future, but with your voices, dedication, energy and participation that the future of our faith will be transformed and the world touched.

The next step is the June vote at General Assembly in Louisville, Kentucky to amend the UUA Bylaws to recognize our Region. The Mini-Assembly on this will take place Thursday, June 20, 3:30 - 4:45. Come show your support and then vote YES at the business meeting.

We have heard your desire for connections, for social justice networks and witness, and your commitment as citizens of our faith. We look forward to journeying with you into a future filled with possibilities we create together.

—Bill Sasso, Central Midwest President
—Kathy Burek, Prairie Star President
—Amy Taylor, Heartland President

Funny as a Crutch

Did you know? The UUCE Care Team maintains a closet of medical equipment available for loan to members and friends of the church. There are lightweight portable wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, shower benches, raised toilet seats, and a bath bench. For assistance contact [Alice Macy](#) or [Mila Brinker](#).



May Calendar

Worship Services

Sunday mornings at 10:45

Adult Religious Exploration and Education

Sunday mornings at 9:00
in rooms 301 and 302

Annual Meeting

May 5 at 12:30
in the Fellowship Hall

Bells Practice

Sundays at 12:30
in the bell room

Board of Trustees Meeting

May 15 at 7:00

Book Group—Afternoon

June 3 at 12:30 (offsite)

Book Group—Evening

May 17 at 7:00 (offsite)

Buddhist Group

Thursdays at 7:00 (offsite)

Care Team

May 1 at 10:30
in the Fellowship Hall

Crescent Circle Ministers' Meeting

May 15 at 11:00 in room 301

Choir Practice

May 9 and 23 at 10:30
in the Sanctuary

Executive Team

May 8 and 22 at 10:30

Improv Group

Sundays at 7:00
in the Sanctuary

Labyrinth Group Walk

May 22 at 6:30

Labyrinth Weeding

May 4 and 18 at 9:00

Mother's Day

May 12

Pagan Unity

Beltane Ritual & Potluck

May 4

qUUILting

May 4 at 9:00 in room 302

Social Justice Meeting

May 27 at 7:00

Unichord deadline

May 19

Pagans Celebrate Beltane

On May 4th, from 6:30 - 9:30, join the Pagans for fun, interesting experiences and a lot of food and dancing! Beltane celebrates the fertility of the earth and the fertility in ourselves—not just the ability to create life, but to create all the things humans bring to life that are uniquely their own. We all create a better life by sharing safely with others in community.

Celebrants should wear something that makes them feel proud—something that shows their unique ability to shine. No lights should be hidden under a bushel at Beltane! Bring drums, rattles and other noisemakers for the ritual, and a dish for the potluck. This year, the focus will be on celebrating aspects of adult sexuality, so children under the age of 12 should not attend this particular ritual celebration.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

May You Love and Be Loved

1	Ron Gole	20	Kyle Underwood
3	Quinn Janu	21	Mary Gaston
5	Dave Underwood	21	Peter Broyles
5	Benjamin Howells	22	Frieda Anderson
9	Joe Masonick	22	Dennis Schwank
11	Jameel Abdur-Rafia	23	Hannah Day
14	Paul Masonick	24	Carol Schoengart
16	Jasper Spayne	24	Norah Emily Day
17	Bridget Laflin	29	Brandi Talaga



Lifespan Religious Exploration and Education



Last month, 3 of our high school youth went to a youth conference in St. Louis. This was the first “Con” for two of them, and their reviews were beyond fantastic! A huge “thanks” to Jason Engel for driving them

and being their chaperone!

The 6-8 class made Easter baskets that were delivered to the Community Crisis Center. The thank-you letter they sent is posted on the kiosk in Fellowship Hall.

Our Adult Spirituality program Prayer continues until May 26. The Adult Spirituality Team will be gathering soon. Anyone interested

in choosing topics for next year’s programming are invited to join us.

I am hoping the weather will cooperate for another campfire night. Look for announcements in the next few weeks.

Our 8th grade recognition ceremony will be on May 19 during the worship service. This ceremony acknowledges the big transition to high school. Our high school youth will officially welcome them into their group.

In June we have a social action opportunity to serve dinner at the Elgin Soup Kitchen on June 29. More details will be sent out soon.

In Faith,
—Kathy

	Preschool	K-2	3-5	6-8	High School
May 5	May Day	Queen Esther	Miriam and Moses	Moses	Topic of choice
May 12	Friendship	Jonah and the Great Fish	Exodus	Solomon	Topic of choice
May 19	Fixed	David and Goliath	David and Goliath	David	Topic of choice
May 26	All classes will be going on a nature hike, weather permitting				
	Preschool	K-2	3-5	6-8	High School

Experience Prayer

Anne Clough and Valerie Howells continue to lead the 6-week experiential prayer class beginning April 21.

We are going to experience prayer in various forms like chanting, mantras, repetitive prayer, prayer beads, song, contemplative prayer, meditation, affirmation, spells, energy healing,

intercessory prayer, scripture, poems, sutras, visualization, guided meditation, inner temple, happy place, movement, hatha yoga, labyrinth, chi running, qi gong, dance, drumming.

The class will encourage people to try out various forms of prayer as a daily practice between classes.

President's Reflections



I have to say publicly again how wonderful our Board has been giving of their time and talents through this rather unconventional year. We had to make some

very hard decisions this church year, the hardest being the budget. Everyone has been professional, caring and trying to demonstrate Right Relationship throughout. I appreciate the trust the congregation has put in us (the Board) to make the best decisions possible on behalf of the entire congregation. This year is almost over and we will soon start another

year like no other with the best possible Interim Minister available to us. We will even need more professionalism and caring and demonstration of Right Relationships up the ying yang to make next year as successful as this one. Also I would like to thank the remaining members of the Executive Team who have stepped up above and beyond! A special shout out to Mila and Kathy who work way more hours than they are paid and have a love for this church that I am truly grateful for! Remember if you are outside enjoying the lovely grounds pull a weed or two, every little bit helps. Thanks!

—Debbie



Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2013

Members Present: David Clough, David Yaeger, Jane Kimball and Mila Brinker (E.T.), Liz Closson, Mila Brinker, Stephen Day, Tim Davis.

Reports:

- A. Financial Report – Approved.
- B. Earmarked Funds Report – Line 2790, Village Bank, has increased by \$2000. Approved.
- C. Executive Team (E.T.) Report – Reviewed. Reports being monitored.
- D. Budget Review Committee Report – Reviewed. Next meeting will be in April.
- E. Canvass Update – The church is \$20K below where it was at this time last year. There are still contributing units from which to be heard. The committee will be making calls in the near future.

New Business:

- A. Committee on the Ministry's role in the next year
 - The role of the Committee on the Ministry (COM) as it relates to the interim minister will be discussed when the interim minister and the transition team are in place.
 - The COM is not required by the by-laws. The Board needs to check policy to see how the COM is defined.

Unfinished Business:

- A. The Strategic Plan Review will take place next month.
- B. Other
 - The Board needs to find out who is responsible for updating the policy document. The church administrator's copy is out of date.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 17.

Take Control of Summer Electricity Costs

The ComEd Residential Real-Time Pricing (RRTP) team will host workshops to help households better manage their summer electricity costs. Workshops will be presented by CNT Energy, the program administrator for the RRTP program. Attend a workshop and learn how to keep summer electricity bills under control.

Workshops are free of charge, and refreshments will be provided.

Workshop schedule:

- Tuesday, May 7, 6 - 7:30 at the Berwyn Public Library, 2701 South Harlem Ave., Berwyn, IL
- Wednesday, May 8, 6 - 7:30 at the Gail Borden Public Library Main Branch, 270 N. Grove Ave., Elgin, IL
- Monday, May 13, 6 - 7:30 at the Evanston Public Library, 1703 Orrington Ave., Evanston, IL

- Saturday, May 18, 2:30 - 3:30 at the Maywood Public Library, 121 South 5th Ave., Maywood, IL
- Tuesday, May 21, 6 - 7:30 at the CNT Energy, 1741 N. Western Ave., Chicago, IL
- Wednesday, May 22, 6 - 7:30 at the Park Forest Village Hall, 350 Victory Drive, Park Forest, IL

To RSVP for a workshop, call 1-888-202-7787.

A webinar is available on May 7 from noon – 1 p.m. To participate, [register online](#).

Afternoon Book Group Goes Wild

The Afternoon Book Group will meet at 12:30 on Monday, June 3, at the home of Jane Kimball to discuss *Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail* by Cheryl Strayed. For further information contact [Alice Macy](#).

Evening Book Club Misses Rose

The UUCE evening book club will meet on Friday, May 17 at 7:00 at the Panera Bread store at 2484 N. Randall Road, in Elgin. The May selection is: *The Missing Rose* by Serdar Ozkan. All UUCE members and friends are welcome. Bring a friend!



Pledge Income as of 3/31/13

Pantry Needs and News

The All People's Inter-Faith Pantry needs a couple of non-food items this month: sizes 4 and 5 disposable diapers and laundry detergent.

Of course, the Pantry can always use the old stand-bys of cereal, peanut butter, jelly, juice and dish detergent.

Try to bring your donations on our Pantry Sunday, May 5, but, as always, your donations are welcome anytime during the month.

The Pantry has been receiving donations of fresh fruit and vegetables from the Jewel in South Elgin. Therefore, the Pantry politely declines donations of produce from the church.

Ways to Get in Touch

WEBSITE

www.uuce.org

E-MAIL

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

Kudos

Thanks to Dan Brosier for filling in the potholes.

Thanks to all who greeted visitors, made coffee, and cleaned up after the service.

Thanks to the Interim Task Force, and all others who toil in this regard.



Wheel of Life

Kathy Underwood's father died early on the morning of April 4th with Kathy and her sister at his bedside. It was a peaceful death.

Paul Anderson's father, Eric, passed away on the 23rd of April. He was 91 years old. Eric was the water color artist whose painting of our Prairie Cathedral hangs in our lobby. Our hearts are with them.



The Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin

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