

# Unichord

SEPTEMBER 2015



THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF ELGIN

## Water Communion is September 13

September 13th is the official start of the new church year!

This will be our ingathering Water Communion service. If you would like, please bring a small container of water (up to a 1/4 cup) that symbolizes something meaningful from your summer. This could be a place, or a memory, or a person, or an event. Your water might represent rest and renewal, joy and happiness, grief and loss, or transition and change. We will also have a

pitcher of water for those who do not bring water from home.

We will have a potluck following the service, and we're expecting a full house since it is Leslie Mills' first Sunday in the pulpit as our new minister. Please bring food to share (with extra servings for guests who may not know to bring something). **Andrea Schmidlin** is coordinating and will be sending an email with a link to sign up for what to bring.

Dive in!

**STARTING  
SEPTEMBER 13  
CHURCH SERVICES  
WILL BEGIN AT 10:30**

# Minister's Meditation

## September Theme: Invitation



*Come in.*

*Come into this place, which we make holy by our presence...*

These words were written by Rev. Rebecca Edmiston-Lange, an expression of

open-ended hospitality, generous welcome, and extravagant invitation. They call us to belonging, like the strains of a favorite hymn, with the words of mystic Sufi poet, Rumi: "Come, come, whoever you are."

*Come in with all of your vulnerabilities and strengths, fears and anxieties, loves and hopes...*

All too often, the world tells us that we must be perfect – and that if we fall short of some ideal standard, we are somehow less-than, insufficient, perhaps even unlovable. We hear too many messages that tell us to make ourselves tidy and small and homogenous. But this is not the reality of our human-ness. The truth is, we are all complicated and messy, and our lives often reflect that. How often is our full Self invited in?

*For here you need not hide, nor pretend, nor be anything other than who you are and who you are called to be.*

What a gift, to find such a place! How often are we surrounded by the voices of others, shouting their bad advice, until we can hardly hear ourselves under the din? Sometimes we need to sit in the stillness with a friend, gazing into each other's souls, and answer the question, "Who are you? God have mercy. Who else are you?" Who else are you? We are, each of us, more than our mistakes, more than our fears, more than our injured relationships. We are enough. And we are not enough.

*Come into this place where we can touch and be touched, heal and be healed, forgive and be forgiven.*

This is what religious community is for. This is why we come in, perhaps tentatively, perhaps suspicious of such a countercultural promise. This is what we are seeking – a place where we are invited and welcome, in all our human messiness, with all of our past failures and unfulfilled hopes and insecurities and good intentions, which are an inseparable part of us. We long for a place where we can receive such gifts of touch, healing, and forgiveness, and have the privilege and the honor of offering them in return to others.

*Come into this place, where the ordinary is sanctified, the human is celebrated, the compassionate is expected.*

It does not require anything extravagant or rare to create a space for the holy to enter. It comes through a smile, an embrace, a gesture of thoughtfulness. The poured coffee is sacred. The folded program is an offering. The voices raised in song are a prayer. The empty chair is an invitation.

*Come into this place. Together, we make it a holy place.*

We might hear echoes in these words of the ancient promise, "Wherever two or more are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them." What do you find precious? What do you hold sacred? When we worship together, how do you participate in the invitation to make this a holy place?

Come in. Let us worship in this holy place together.

With love,  
Leslie

**Leslie Mills**  
Minister

# A Month of Sundays: September

## 9/6: Prelude To A New Day

Service led by Susan Anderson.

Worship Assistant: Leslie Yoshitani.

*This service begins at 9:30.*

## 9/13: Coming Home to Ourselves: Water Communion and Ingathering

Worship Leader: Leslie Mills, minister

Worship Assistant: Stephen Day

## 9/20: A Love That Will Not Let Us Go: Living into Covenant

Worship Leader: Leslie Mills, minister

Worship Assistant: Dave Yaeger

## 9/27: Here You Need Not Hide: Being Our Full, Messy, Authentic, Human Selves

Worship Leader: Leslie Mills, minister

Worship Assistant: Steve Askins

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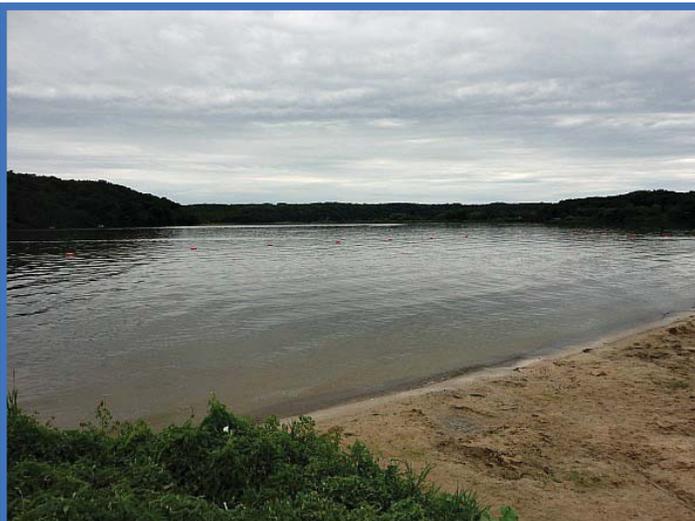
## Scrip: Sense for You, Dollars for UUCE

With the beginning of the new church year on September 13, UUCE's scrip fundraising program will return from its summer hiatus.

"Scrip" is simply a word that means "substitute money." In other words, scrip is gift cards from local and national retailers, the same gift cards you would buy at the store. You spend the same dollar amount for the things you are going to buy anyway--food, gas, clothing, entertainment, gifts--while benefiting the church. UUCE purchases the gift cards through Great Lakes Scrip at a discount ranging from

4% to 25%, and that amount goes into our operating fund. To see the current list of scrip retailers go to [www.glscrip.com](http://www.glscrip.com) and click on "retailer list."

To order scrip cards just stop by the scrip table in the downstairs lobby between 11:45 and 12:15 after each Sunday service. Payment is accepted when you place your order, and cards can be picked up the following Sunday. Questions? Contact [Sandy Webster](mailto:SandyWebster@uuce.org) or [Alice Macy](mailto:AliceMacy@uuce.org).



## Youth Camping Trip

All high school youth are invited to go camping at Yellowstone Lake in Wisconsin on September 18-20. Contact Kathy ([dre@uuce.org](mailto:dre@uuce.org)) or Todd Underwood ([todd@toddunderwood.com](mailto:todd@toddunderwood.com)) if you're interested.

# Lifespan Religious Exploration and Education



Welcome to a new church year! There is a sense of excitement beginning a new era of ministry with our new settled minister, Leslie Mills. I may be in the minority when I say that I look forward to and embrace change. It is said that change is inevitable, so why fight it? I look forward to exploring how we can minister better to each other as well as to those who visit.

That being said, the Religious Exploration and Education Team and I have reviewed the responses to our program evaluations and are looking at ways to try new ideas to meet the expectations that you have expressed. I will be sending out an email to parents in particular about the evaluation results and our feedback on it. The purpose is to give you an idea of some of the issues we're facing and possible ways to address them.

The Adult Spirituality Team will have met as of this writing to plan programs for the coming year. As always, if you have a passion for a topic that would be good to explore as a religious community, please feel free to email me. I cannot promise that we will do every one, but I can assure you that all will be considered carefully.

For our children and youth, this year our focus will be on our Unitarian Universalist Identity, as well as on social justice and action. Our curricula will be centered on what it means to be a Unitarian and/or Universalist and how we live through our principles and faith.

We will also be focusing on two social justice issues: homelessness and hunger. These are two very big and broad issues that are connected to many others, such as low-income and minorities, immigration, etc. There will be educational and experiential activities in each class as well as for the whole congregation. Our first big event will be Cardboard City on November 7. Mark your calendars now,

and look forward to hearing more about this during the month.

Here is what the young people will be doing this month:

## September 13

Ingathering and Water Communion  
— All Ages Worship Service

## September 18-20

High School Youth Camping Trip

## September 20

Registration for REE

Games Day

Teacher Orientation Noon-2:00

## September 27

Parent Orientation 9:30

Registration for REE

Nature Hike at Burnidge Woods

In Faith,

— **Kathy Underwood**

Director of Religious

Exploration and Education

## Would You, Could You Teach UUs?

Would you like to teach UUs?

Tell me, tell me which you'd choose.

Would you like fifth grade or first?

Choosing none would be the worst.

Would you, could you, if you knew

About the kids who'll be with you?

They value interest over skill

They look for patience, heart and will.

They just want folks who'll help them learn

So sign up, sign up, and take your turn!

Would you, could you, if you had

More knowledge about the job ahead?

All you need to do is contact Kathy U-

She'll show you what to do!

(Kathy Underwood - [dre@uuce.org](mailto:dre@uuce.org))

# President's Reflections



UUCE voted unanimously to call Leslie Mills as our new settled minister on May 31, 2015, officially ending the sometimes problematic transition period after the retirement of Rev. Dan

Brosier. Leslie took residence in her office on August 15, thereby symbolically marking the beginning of a new ministership at UUCE. It has not gone unnoticed by many congregants that 2016 is also the sesquicentennial year of the founding of UUCE. By any measure the coming church year should be exciting, eventful and significant as a place of worship for the growing community of liberal religion. Wouldn't it be memorable to celebrate the sesquicentennial anniversary with a series of events (some for the dual purpose of fund raising) and capping off the year with the ordination of Leslie?

After several years of stagnant or slightly declining membership, and a "wait and see" interim period, the congregation of UUCE is understandably energized and looking forward with great anticipation to growth in spirituality, pastoral care and just making more of a difference on the surrounding community's social and environmental justice issues. However, to achieve these goals, we need to fix some mundane, but nevertheless important church infrastructure like the church's IT system, achieving more sound financial footing, and practicing membership protocols. I know this not news to members of the congregation, and Leslie is certainly aware, but I think it is worth reminding ourselves that progress may be slow and sometimes two steps backward and one step forward may be the best case scenario. Going forward, working together, we will more than ever need our covenant of good relations. So, let us begin.

—Jun Yoshitani

President,

UUCE Board of Trustees

## Wheel of Life

On August 22, 2015, UUCE lost Roberta Nauman, a member of the church for over 50 years, in an automobile accident in Door County, Wisconsin. She was 79. Roberta championed the Larkin Center, one of the church's favorite charities, and twice served as President of the UUCE Board of Trustees. Roberta lived her faith, turning her passion for social justice into action in the community at large. She was preceded in death by her husband, church member Jim Burnidge, who died on April 16, 2008.

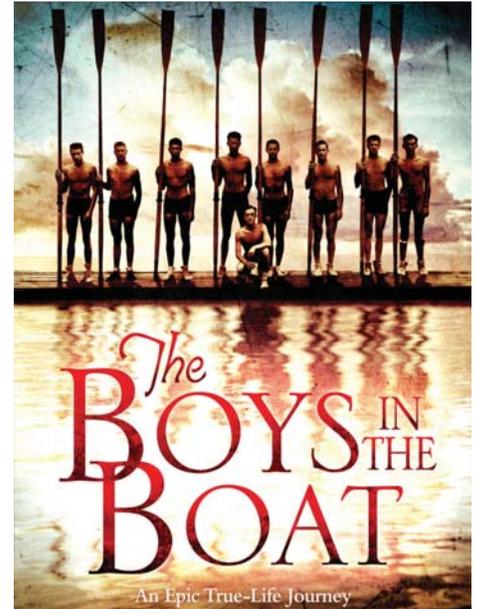
She will be missed.



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- |    |                    |    |                    |
|----|--------------------|----|--------------------|
| 2  | Susan Anderson     | 22 | Ann Kremer         |
| 5  | Val Broyles        | 23 | Jim Porter         |
| 7  | Janeen Vanko       | 23 | Colin P. Broyles   |
| 10 | Anne Ward          | 25 | Kristin Wachholder |
| 13 | Tony Dean          | 25 | Caitlin Sweeney    |
| 12 | Jane Holish        | 26 | Abigail Anderson   |
| 18 | Beth Cooper-Zobott | 26 | Sarah Stultz       |
| 20 | Valerie Howells    | 29 | Timothy M. Broyles |

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



The Afternoon Book Group will meet at 12:30 on Monday, September 28, at the home of Sandy Webster to discuss "The Boys in the Boat" by Daniel James Brown.

## Low Food Supply

The All Peoples Inter-Faith Pantry's food supply is really, really low. Cereal tops the list of needed items, followed by peanut butter, jelly, and one-pound packages of pinto beans and rice.

Try to bring your contributions on our Pantry Sunday, September 6, but, as always, your donations are welcome anytime during the month.



# UUCE Board of Trustees Minutes

July 15, 2015

Members present: Dan Kalkenbrenner, DJ Jensen, Mary Knapp, Stephen Day, Steve Stultz.

I. Welcoming of New BoT Members

II. Opening

a. Centering

b. Approval of Agenda – Steve Stultz motioned to approve, DJ second, unanimous approval

c. One minute check-ins

d. Timer

III. Approval of past meeting minutes

a. June 17, 2015

IV. Reports

a. Finance Report: final for 2014-2015 – reviewed report

b. Minister's Report and Q&A – No Report Received

i. Final Interim Ministry review. – Steve Day to check into this

c. Executive Team Report – no report received

d. DRE's Report – no report received

V. Unfinished Business

a. Closing disruptive behavior case

b. Continuation of putting church documents on-line (Stephen Day) – no updates

VI. New Business

a. Voting on Kevin Webster as replacement for Tim Davis and as Secretary (he was invited by the Nominating Committee and has accepted – also willing

to be Secretary) Steve Stultz motioned to approve, Mary Knapp second, unanimous approval

b. Church security and responsibility of Trustee of the Day. Steve Stultz to send document on Trustee of the Day Responsibilities. Ask executive team to place a bigger sign on the door reminding the last person out to lock up

c. Initial discussion of welcoming event for Leslie Mills. Proposed that Committee on Ministry may be able to coordinate. Diana March proposed an idea for the welcoming which was discussed and proposed for the entire congregation to participate in.

d. Discussion on updating the website prior to the start of the new year.

e. Computer usage— Mike Moutrie would like to bring this up for discussion. May be related to old business for putting documents on-line. Steve Day to talk with Mike on this.

f. Made request to church to join the Illinois Solar Energy Association in order to be eligible for selling UUCE's Solar Renewable Energy Credit (SREC) for 2014-2015. Dues cost \$75 per year. We could sell our SREC for about \$900 (estimate). Application for participating in Illinois SREC market begins on July 20 and closes on July 24. Steve Stultz to talk with Jun Yoshitani to get more information on this.

Steve Day made motion to adjourn, Steve Stultz second, unanimous vote.

## GREEN CORNER

## Green Days

September

6 and 27 at 12:00

Landscaping  
Work Parties

September

20 at 12:30

Green Sanctuary  
Committee  
meeting

## Ways to Get in Touch

### WEBSITE

[www.uuce.org](http://www.uuce.org)

### E-MAIL

[minister@uuce.org](mailto:minister@uuce.org)

[administrator@uuce.org](mailto:administrator@uuce.org)

[newsletter@uuce.org](mailto:newsletter@uuce.org)

### PHONE

847-888-0668

### POSTAL MAIL

P. O. Box 1032

Elgin, IL 60121

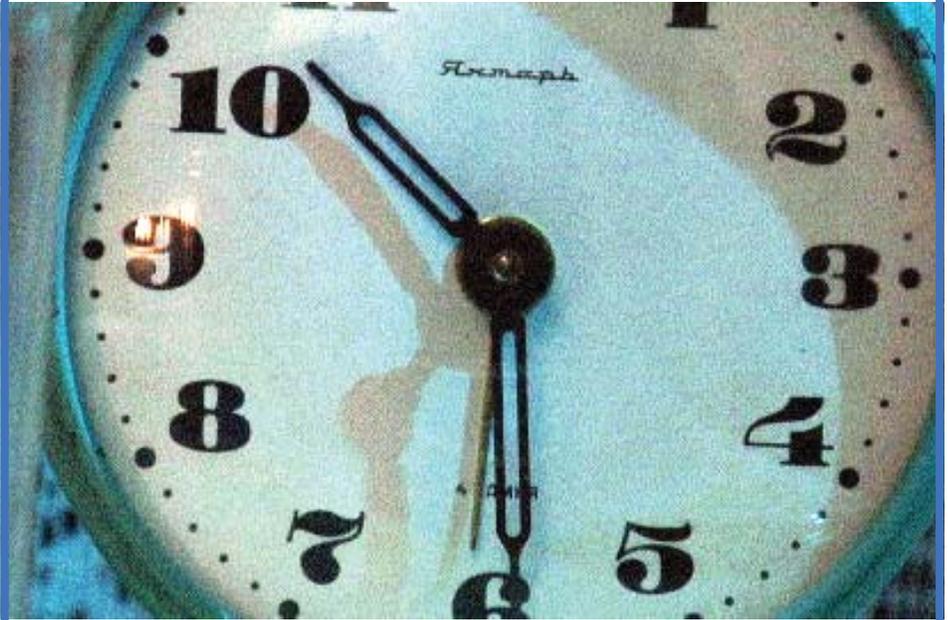
### PHYSICAL LOCATION

39W830 Highland Avenue

*three miles west of*

*Randall Rd.*

# Starting September 13



# Services Begin at 10:30



The Unitarian Universalist

Church of Elgin

P. O. Box 1032 • Elgin, IL 60121



*Sunday morning services begin at 10:30*