

UUCC Community News

Unitarian Universalist Community Church

July 2023



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00AM

Sunday services have resumed in the building. Please join us in person or via [Zoom](#).

UCC COVID UPDATE: The UCC Board of Trustees has lifted Covid restrictions in the church. The congregation can determine their own level of risk and any need to continue to wear a mask in public settings. The only exception to this will be when we have in-church speakers who may request that congregants wear a mask during their service. We will notify you ahead of time if this occurs.

SUNDAY IN JULY

July 2 Ed White, Veterans for Peace
Title: What Veterans Know About America.

American voting Veterans are involved in civic engagement. They are aware of what it takes to be a participating citizen, the good and the bad of life in America today

July 9 Patricia Hofmann
Title: Day of Judgement

Most religions speak of a Day of Judgment. But when is Judgment Day? What is judgment? And who is the judge?

July 16 Rev. Denise Tracy
Title: Traveling Mercies: What can we learn from travel? What gifts does travel give us?

July 23 Holly Pope
Title: Habitat for Humanity
Holly will be holding a FORUM after the service at approx. 11:30AM

July 30 Leanne Mull
Title: The Other Pride Month
July is Disability Pride month, there is a big parade in Chicago in an inclusive welcoming space. Disability is the only marginalized community that any of us can join at any moment. Join us as we talk about disability history, disability justice and where disability falls in the DEI conversation.



Habitat for Humanity special Q&A FORUM

Sunday, July 23, after service about 11:30a.m. Holly Pope from Habitat for Humanity will be holding a Q&A FORUM after the service in Classroom Room 3, with the option to join via Zoom.

UU Connect Forum

Our monthly UU Connect forum will take a break for July and August and return the second Sunday of September, when Allan will provide a report on General Assembly 2023.



Listening Hearts

Listening Hearts

July volunteers, Joyce Semmler and Bev Feldt, are available as a source for listening, support and resources.



Religious Education for Children

During July, August and the day before Labor Day we will continue to offer child care for pre-school aged children, and fun activities for those of school age, but will not be offering lessons





The President's Column

July 2023

by Laurene Lambertino-Urquizo



BIG announcement: Joyce Semmler has been appointed as Vice President of the board following Monica Regan stepping down due to family obligations. Vickie Fotis has been appointed to take Joyce's position on the board. Let's welcome them to the board!

I want to take this opportunity to take a moment to remember our former minister, Rev. Yielbonzie Charles Johnson. It was Yielbonzie who influenced my decision to become a UU and join UUCC. Rev. Yielbonzie had come to UUCC in September of 2009 to become our part-time minister, and the last minister that we have had. I already had two family members attending UUCC (my mother and my aunt Emily) for some years. I had resisted their urgings to attend the church. At the same time, a close friend of mine, Assunta Osterholt, had also been urging me to attend a Sunday service to see what it was all about. Finally, one Sunday I agreed and Rev. Yielbonzie was presiding. Afterwards, as I was being introduced to him, he asked me what I had thought of my first UU service. I replied, "It's just like going to church, but without any pesky mention of God." He laughed, and later we became close friends.

Rev. Yielbonzie was an amazing and complex individual of great depth. He was both black and gay, two factors which must have presented some formidable challenges within his lifetime. He had graduated from the Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, and taught there for five years before coming to us. Yielbonzie, to me, was the embodiment of what Unitarian Universalism was all about. He was soft spoken and possessed a wry sense of humor that accompanied his sweet smile. He was generous to all with his time and when you spoke with him, he was always totally focused and listening. He helped to explain much of the confusion I had with understanding what UU was and how I could find my way in it. He became my mentor.

Rev. Yielbonzie was unique in that he was able to remake his identity during his lifetime by searching for his roots in Africa and travelling there to come into greater contact with his ancestors, which continued to be an important theme in his life. He adopted the name "Yielbonzie" through this process and combined it with his given name. He also was an accomplished visual artist and continued to paint and sculpt for the rest of his life. His works most often combined African symbolism in both context, form, and color, interweaving the iconography of African masking traditions into his rich imagery. I had studied (and taught) non-Western art history (including African Art) for years prior to meeting him and we often spoke of these artistic traditions. I gifted him a book on African Art that he seemed to treasure, and I hope it brought him joy.

I continued to learn a great deal from Rev. Yielbonzie during his time at UUCC. His devotion to social justice was incredibly strong and he made me aware for the first time about the "Greenwood Massacre" – something I had never heard about before. In 1921, due to constraints placed on the black citizens of Tulsa, OK, they were compelled to form the Greenwood district (aka "Black Wall Street") out of necessity. It became a vibrant and prosperous commercial area that soon attracted the attention and envy of the racist white majority of Tulsa. From May 30 to June 2, 1921, a violent white mob destroyed 35 blocks of businesses, schools, homes, and churches, and was encouraged by the Tulsa Tribune and with help from local

continued

The President's Column continued

police. What makes this heinous event of American history even more horrific is the fact that the knowledge of this has not been included in most history books so that most people only became aware of it in recent times.

I greatly enjoyed Rev. Yielbonzie's years at UUC and many of us look back to that time as a sort of "flowering" of artistic and cultural arts at UUC. Yielbonzie always loved holding celebrations to bring the congregation together with the community, such as our "Jazz in the Afternoon" events where members of our musical communities came together to jam and entertain us. We held many such events involving art exhibits in the Sanctuary as well and held barbecues or other communal meals which brought the congregation together. I particularly remember one such event where Rev. Yielbonzie processed through the church carrying a roast leg of lamb (does anyone else remember that joyous day?).

Those were good memories and when Rev. Yielbonzie decided to leave us in 2013 to return to Oklahoma because our financial situation made it too difficult to continue to support even a part-time pastor, and we all grieved...but not as much as when we learned that just a few short weeks ago that on June 2, Yielbonzie left this world. He had been suffering from health problems that seemed to accelerate in recent years and he was never able to reverse. I will continue to carry the memory of this gentle man with me in my heart. I count myself fortunate to have known him. Farewell, Yielbonzie, you have earned your place among your beloved ancestors.

Reverend Yielbonzie Charles Johnson

1952 - 2023



Yielbonzie Charles Johnson Obituary August 26, 1952 - June 2, 2023

Reverend Yielbonzie Charles Johnson, artist, teacher, mentor, and friend departed this life and joined the ancestors on June 2, 2023. He was 70 years old.

Yielbonzie continues to live within all of us, for a spirit as great as his cannot be

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/tulsaworld/name/yielbonzie-johnson>



Please send healing thoughts and prayers to former long-time member Al Weber, and his daughter Lynn, who was recently diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

You may call or email the church office for Al's contact information. 708-481-5339 churchadmin@uuccpf.org

Financial Update

June was the final month of our 2022-2023 fiscal year. Did you complete your pledge by the end of June? Not sure, please contact me for an update on your pledge status. As of July 1st we began the new fiscal year and a new round of pledges has kicked in. Thank you to everyone who made a pledge, we have commitments for \$55,000, which is just a bit less than last year. If you have not yet made a pledge, it is never too late! Please talk to Treasurer, Nancy Irons (irons.nancy@gmail.com).

Do you have a knack for numbers? Please consider joining the Finance Committee. The workload is minimal, with meetings quarterly or less. Come help set financial policies and procedures. The Board would love to appoint you!

Nancy Irons, UUCG Treasurer



Volunteer Recognitions

Thanks go out to all of the members who have contributed to the 70th Anniversary celebrations this year. This group has organized events, presentations, surveys of the congregation, the sharing of memories and more! In June we had an amazing luncheon. Memories will continue to be shared through the month of August. Thank you all!

Special thanks and appreciation goes out to Marilyn Ragland for arranging and conducting the recent new member ceremony. Thank you, Marilyn, you know how to make people feel welcome.

Volunteer Opportunities!

There are many interesting tasks that need attention. Would you like to help?

Are you willing to commit to a Sunday or two each month? We need Ushers and Greeters, Zoom hosts and Sexton setup assistance. This is your church, help to make our Sunday services and events happen. Please get involved! Contact Marilyn Ragland (mexmasrag@aol.com) for details on the Sexton team; Joyce Sligar (jsligar02@gmail.com) for Ushers and Greeters; and Jodi Libretti (jlilbretti@sbcglobal.net) for the Zoom hosts. We need volunteers to change the message on the sign at Western Avenue each week.

We also need volunteers who are willing to help with setup, cleanup and to be on-hand for rentals. We need hospitable people to encourage and enable success of our rentals to help fund the church. Can you help prep or staff the Rummage Sale in August? Please contact Nancy Irons (708-712-3228) for more information.

Do you prefer to work outdoors? We need ongoing litter patrol, trimming of overhanging branches in the parking lot, pulling weeds on the patio, power washing the deck and patio, probably re-staining the deck once washed and leaf removal from around the building.

Please contact with the office (708-481-5339 or churchadmin@uucgpf.org) for more information or to arrange access to the building and supplies.

A new UUCG Members and Friends Directory is available.

To save paper, email the office to request a .pdf copy. Some printed copies will be available in the Gathering Room.

Please notify the office of any corrections needed.

Unitarian Universalist
Community Church



2022-23
Directory of Members



**Rummage Sale
is Coming!
Save the Dates
August 11th & 12th**

UUCG will be conducting a Rummage Sale in August. That means we need items to sell! Please bring in donations of clean, nice quality items, that are portable. We are looking for household items, tools, jewelry, artwork, games, etc. We ask that you NOT bring in clothing or stuffed animals. You can drop off your items in the Coat Room at the designated spot. We will be sorting and pricing during the month of July.

Can you help with this effort? Are you willing to sort and price items in advance? Are you willing to help setup in Classroom 3 the week prior to the sale? Can you help staff the sale, which will be held 9:00am to 4:00pm on both Friday, August 11th and Saturday, August 12th? Please contact Nancy Irons (irons.nancy@gmail.com) or the office (churchadmin@uucgpf.org 708-481-5339) to volunteer. We need your help!



Connections

by Barb Anderson Morris



UCC inducted 6 new members into our congregation on Sunday, June 4th. Here are some of the pictures taken by Jane Pask and Barb Anderson.



Left to Right: Marilyn Ragland, Rev. Larry McClellan (background), Derick Downey, Mary Kate Duffy, Allan Lindrup, Candy Allen-Smith, Beryl Atchison (and Pam Daniel who could not attend).



The 70th Anniversary Celebration cake.

continued

Connections continued

The induction ceremony was followed by the 70th Anniversary Luncheon enjoyed by all.



Angela Denk facilitates the monthly Full Moon Goddess Group. Here we are after making crowns.



CONGRATULATIONS to our young congregant Delilah Lake, granddaughter of Lenore Rendina, has recently graduated 8th grade and is a newly rising high school freshmen. Delilah graduated from Columbia Middle School in Steger, and was recognized for exceeding expectations on Illinois State Testing Standards. She is looking forward to taking AP/honors courses at Bloom Trail High School next semester.

Check out Leanne Mull's TEDX talk!

What Britney can teach us about guardianship and disability justice

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xal5Z7uHmfY>



Beryl Atchison in Pittsburgh PA. for UUA General Assembly.



GREEN SANCTUARY

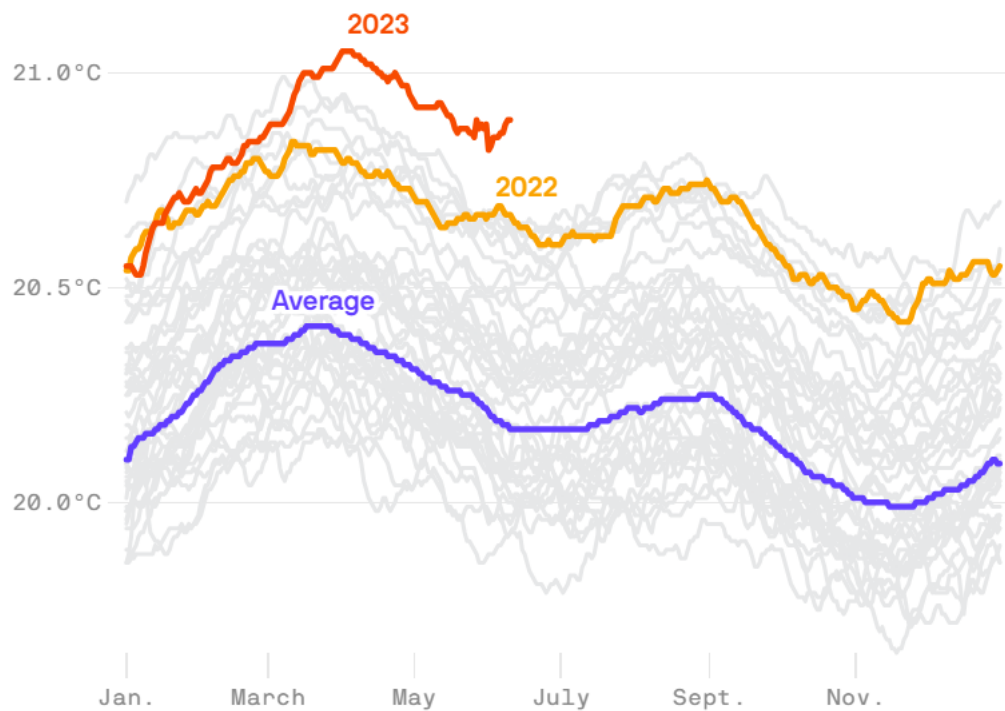
BY JEFF GREEN - JULY 2023



I want to lead into this article with my work experience as a handyman during the summer. As I am getting older, now 69, I am cutting out the more stressful work conditions of my job. I just don't want to work out in the sun anymore for long hours. Heat takes a toll on our bodies, and we can get sick from it. One of my first experiences was one 95-degree day and humid. The customer told me right up front, it was OK to go home if things got bad for me. I lasted two hours that day feeling shaky inside. I missed the next day of work recuperating from just that short time in that set of stressful work conditions.

Daily global average sea surface temperatures

In celsius, 1981-2023 (As of June 10)



Data: ClimateReanalyzer.org; Note: Average reflects 1982-2011 mean; Chart: Rahul Mukherjee and Simran Parwani/Axios

The picture above is all over the internet in about the last month. We are in an El Nino that strongly suggests we are in a record setting year for high temperatures. This kind of influence from our warming oceans makes working conditions all the more stressful. During these times, many cities if not all of them have cooling centers for people who cannot escape the heat. This is especially true in the Texas area.

Continued

GREEN SANCTUARY CONTINUED

Funny thing happened in the Texas legislature, Governor Abbot signed a piece of legislation that bans mandatory water breaks. So, I have been sick on less extreme heat than Texas and now mandatory water breaks are banned? What could this be?

<https://climatecrocks.com/2023/06/21/texas-heat-wave-turns-deadly-as-governor-eliminates-water-breaks-for-workers/>

Down in the comment area, a commenter named rymeswithgoalie pointed out that the Texas legislature is countering the more liberal cities helping to protect their construction workers. No one should even be working outside in 110-to-120-degree heat. People in Texas have died from this extreme heat wave.

There is a very dangerous side to climate change for the warmer as humans have brought onto themselves. I hope that everyone will be aware of dangerous heat conditions and take care of themselves. I for one, have turned down jobs this year simply because it is working in the sun for too long. Thanks from the Green Sanctuary team for letting us into your UU experience.



Reflections on Nametags

by Nancy Irons (originally published in April 2014)

I recently came across this article from 2014 and felt it still applied today. So, here it is again. Enjoy!

Why should I wear a nametag? I know who I am. Everyone I know, already knows who I am! . . . But what about those who don't know you yet? What about visitors?

Wearing a nametag provides others with your name without a formal introduction. This makes it easier to approach you, to start a conversation with you, and ultimately to remember you. I believe it is important that we strive to be memorable; that we strive to be open and welcoming. The more we make ourselves available to visitors, with a smile or casual conversation, the more welcoming we are seen to be. This can only enhance the experience for our visitors.

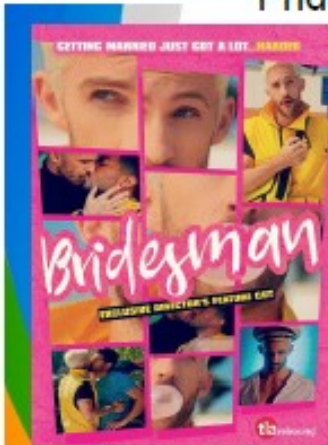
I am a longtime member of this church. I first started coming as a kid, back in 1965 when David Bumbaugh was the new minister. My father and I came regularly for the next decade or so. Then I was off to college and a decade or so in New England. When I returned to the south suburbs in 1989, I joined UUCU as a way to connect with people who share my liberal values. After nearly two decades as an active member, I moved to the north suburbs to help care for my aging parents. I was away for 6 years during which time I was a member at North Shore Unitarian. However, UUCU remained my primary religious affiliation, with friendships and connections that were strong and memorable.

When I returned to UUCU in 2012, I was welcomed back by many long-time friends; however, there were perhaps a quarter of the members "new" to the church since I had previously attended. While I have gotten to know many of these "new" members; there were several whose names that I still didn't know. . . . Perhaps I needed to be more outgoing in initiating conversations with these individuals. However, it seems to me that this is a two-way responsibility. The current members also have a responsibility to meet and greet "new" people. As a returning member, I have had the advantage of already knowing many friends here. If I was truly a new, "new" person, I'm not sure how I would have fared. Last week during our closing circle, I looked around and saw far less than half of those present were wearing nametags. I would like to see this change. I urge everyone to make a conscious effort to wear your nametags, and to be welcoming to those you do not yet know. If you have left your nametag at home, there are always peel and stick nametags available at the Greeter's table. If your nametag is falling apart or is missing, then please leave a note for Virginia, in her mailbox near the office, requesting a new nametag. The following week, just ask at the Greeter's table for your new nametag. . . . So please, let's all revive the habit of wearing our nametags, not just for me, but for the good of our congregation. It is a way of reassuring visitors that this is a friendly place and that we would like to talk to them. Thank you for your cooperation.

(4/21/2014)

RAINBOW CAFE

Friday, July 21 at 7:00PM



BRIDESMAN

Synopsis:

Jimmy Fowler stars as a ridiculous self-centered single gay man. Who returns to his hometown to be in his childhood best friend's wedding party. The lone man-of-honor among the bridesmaids. He spends the majority of his time undermining the whole affair. Hoping to save his bestie from what he considers an unbearably boring life of marriage and monogamy. He tries stealing away her husband-to-be before the couple can recite their vows.

Rainbow Café is a social event that provides a welcoming and safe environment for single or partnered gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender adults, and their allies. Group is open to anyone regardless of their sexual orientation.

We meet every third Friday at 7PM to watch a LGBTQ film.

Join the discussion after the film.

Invite friends!

Optional - bring snacks to share.



Unitarian Universalist Community Church
70 Sycamore Drive, Park Forest, IL 60466
708-481-5339 uuccpf.org



LGBTQ

Welcoming Congregation



WE LOVE OUR NEIGHBORS

IMMIGRANT LGBTQ

OF COLOR WITH DISABILITIES

OF ALL AND ANY FAITHS

UUA.ORG/IMAGES

Full Moon Goddess Group

The Full Moon Group Monday July 3 6:30-8:30

As part of an initiative to continue the great tradition of women's fellowship at UCC we will host a monthly gathering for women around the time of the full moon. All women—cis and trans—are invited to come together to explore the meaning and power of the divine feminine through an eclectic triple goddess lens. The gatherings will honor the Maiden/Mother/Crone aspect of the feminine experience and feature a monthly goddess pulled from varying pantheons and traditions. For more information contact Angela Denk at angeladenk@gmail.com or 815-302-8976

Bring a snack and something to sip.





UUANI June 2023 Newsletter

SPRINGFIELD SCORECARD SPRING 2023

UUANI participated in several initiatives with our partners.

Carceral Justice has been front and center for the past few years as we've allied with [LiveFree](#) and the [UU Prison Ministry of Illinois](#) .

Gender Justice figured prominently as UUANI partnered with [Equality Illinois](#) .

We followed the lead of [Planned Parenthood Illinois Action](#) to advocate for:

- HB3326, protecting license-plate data from being disseminated to organizations that might want to identify folks crossing state lines for reproductive healthcare (abortion). It PASSED both houses toward the end of session. This legislation also protects immigrants from being targeted.

Immigrant Justice

UUANI joined [Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights](#) for a number of successful efforts.

Efforts which were not successful included expanding healthcare expansion for all residents age 19-41, and a state child tax credit to provide economic relief for all working families and lift residents out of poverty.

Climate and Environmental Justice

Having passed CEJA (Climate & Equitable Jobs Act) in 2021, the legislature seemed not to have much energy for new climate initiatives, although many were introduced. UUANI did successfully participate in the [Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition](#).

Education

Finally, we followed the lead of [Illinois Families for Public Schools](#) in:

Successfully opposing the "Invest in Kids" school voucher program, was not included in budget - a WIN for now - though it may be back in the fall.

What's Happening at UUCC?



First Sunday Potluck July 2nd after worship

At UUCC, the first Sunday of each month after worship service we share a potluck luncheon while we meet to conduct church business or just enjoy each other's company.

Please bring a food item to share. We especially need main dishes and vegetarian dishes. Be sure to list the dish's ingredients so all can enjoy a safe and delicious meal together.

Please join us for this time of Fellowship!

UUCC Men's Group

Please note: The group *will not hold a regular meeting in either July or August*, but will hold a pot-luck social gathering at Bruce Swiecicki's home sometime this summer (date yet to be determined). If interested in participating, contact Allan Lindrup at uusj@sbcglobal.net or 773-595-4921.

Connections Small Group

Please note: Connections group will not meet during June, July and August.

Our meeting schedule will also change once we start up again in September. From then on, we will only meet the 2nd Wednesday of the month, from 1-2:30pm.

Questions? Contact Irene van der Hoek at tulip51girl@gmail.com

Multi-UU Church Environmental Book Club

Monday, July 17th, from 7:00 - 8:15 PM via Zoom

This book club meets via Zoom, *on the Third Monday evening of the month.*

This meeting will focus on a discussion of the chapters on People and Cities in the book *Regeneration* by Paul Hawken. Folks who have not been participating in this book club but who like to start doing so should contact Allan Lindrup at 773-595-4921 or uusj@sbcglobal.net

The Unitarian Universalist Multiracial Unity Action Council

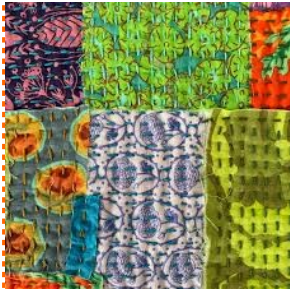
UUMUAC Monthly "Third Wednesday" Worship Service

Wednesday, June 21st at 7:00 pm Central Time

For Zoom information, please send name, email, and congregation (if any) to richard3point@gmail.com

For past services, type "Third Wednesday UUMUAC services" in the YouTube search box.

DO YOU LOVE STITCHING?



A new stitchery group is forming at UUCC and will meet on the first Tuesday of the month, from 10:00 am to noon, in classroom 3. The group will create homemade items to donate to charity. This will be an in-person, monthly gathering at the church. If you can't make it to the church, item pick-up can be coordinated. For more information contact **KAREN BERAN 708-532-6024**.

JOIN THE UUCC PADS TEAM



SOUTH
SUBURBAN
PADS

A group of 11 individuals, including 9 UUCC members plus two friends of the congregation, has begun to provide dinner for 50 South Suburban PADS clients, housed at a facility in South Holland, once a month, specifically on the first Thursday of each month. We will be providing an entree (meat, fish, chili, etc.), a vegetable, a starch (such as garlic bread), a dessert, and a drink for each client. If you would like to join our team, please contact Allan Lindrup at 773-595-4921 or uusj@sbcglobal.net

You may send donations to PADS, 414 Lincoln Highway, Chicago Heights IL 60411, or place your donation, marked to PADS in the memo line, in the donation basket during a church service.



RESPOND NOW

Carl Wolf has requested volunteers for Respond Now food pantry any day Monday-Friday. If you or know of anyone interested, please email Carl Wolf cwolf@respondnow.org or Food Pantry Coordinator, Chris Gines. cgines@respondnow.org or call 708-314-5516

You may donate directly at Respond Now, 1439 Emerald Avenue, Chicago Heights at the front door or back window.

UUCC has a donation bin in the hall for non perishable food items or self care essentials.

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

In an effort to keep UUCC Members informed, meeting minutes are available on the bulletin board and can be emailed or mailed to any UUCC member who requests them.

Please contact the office 708-481-5339 or email churchadmin@uuccpf.org

The South Suburban Dulcimer and Folk Music Society

Invites you to attend their meetings and special events.

at the

Unitarian Universalist Community Church 70 Sycamore Drive, Park Forest IL

For information about joining, call 708-741-8301

OR write to SSDFMS PO Box 256 Olympia Fields, IL 60461

www.southsubbandulcimer.com

JULY 2023



Call the church office
 Mon. - Fri. 10:00am - 10:00pm with
 questions, to schedule a rental, or
 to make an appointment to view
 the building.
 708-481-5339

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Please note: Connections group will not meet during June, July and August.			9:30am Yoga 3pm PADS Team		1 9am Online Meditation
2 10am Worship 11:30am Potluck after service	3 9:30am Yoga	4 10:00am Stitchery Group Men's Group NO MEET- ING IN JULY & AUG.	5 7:00pm Yoga	6 9:30am Yoga	7	8 9am Online Meditation
9 10am Worship	10 9:30am Yoga	11	12 7:00pm Yoga	13 9:30am Yoga	14	15 9am Online Meditation
16 10am Worship	17 9:30am Yoga 7pm Environmental Book Club	18 7pm Board Meeting	19 7:00pm Yoga	20 9:30am Yoga	21 7pm Rainbow Café	22 9am Online Meditation
23 10am Worship	24 9:30am Yoga	25	26 7:00pm Yoga	27 9:30am Yoga	28	29
30 10am Worship	31 9:30am Yoga					

Event Facilitators

Buddhist Meditation:	Beverly Feldt bevfeldt@gmail.com
Yoga:	Karen Nielsen 708-755-3577 shanti-one@comcast.net
Rainbow Café:	Charles Barnett 708-843-2005 chazbarnett@yahoo.com
Forum:	Allan Lindrup 773-595-4921 uusj@sbcglobal.net
UU Environmental Book Club:	Allan Lindrup 773-595-4921 uusj@sbcglobal.net
Edgar's Place:	Dave Rudolf daverudolf50@gmail.com
Connections Group:	Irene van der Hoek 708/305-4913 tulip51girl@gmail.com
Men's Group:	Allan Lindrup 773-595-4921 uusj@sbcglobal.net
Goddess Full Moon Party:	Angela Denk angeladenk@gmail.com
Stitchery Group	Karen Beran 708-532-6024 greywolf2496@hotmail.com

Church Information

70 Sycamore Drive

Park Forest, IL 60466

Office Phone: 708-481-5339

E-Mail: churchadmin@uuccpf.org

Website: www.uuccpf.org

(Please contact the church office for anything related to the newsletter).

The newsletter deadline is always the 20th of every month.

****You can help save a tree and a stamp by simply picking up your newsletter or receiving it electronically via email.***



Visit us on the web @ www.uuccpf.org

**Unitarian Universalist
Community Church
70 Sycamore Drive
Park Forest, IL 60466**