

EVANSTON

UNITARIAN NEWS

A Unitarian Universalist Congregation

**Congregational Meeting September 8th in the Sanctuary
immediately after the 10am Worship Service**

**Interim Minister Rev. Karen Gustafson will lead us in a discussion of interim work.
See detailed article below.**

This Sunday August 18, 2019

Worship Service @ 10am - Rev. Eileen Wiviott

Beloved Conversations: Meditations on Race and Ethnicity

More than 10% of our congregation has participated in this transformative curriculum developed by the Fahs Collaborative of Meadville Lombard Theological School. Beloved Conversations creates an intentional, supportive space where participants can learn, reflect and share about their own experiences with race and white privilege and identify opportunities for individual and communal growth. In this service, participants will share what they learned and their hopes for UCE as we continue to practice Beloved Community.

The Chris Isely Cancer Support Group @ 9:00am, Rm 2

The group is open to anyone facing cancer either personally or through a family member or friend. This lay-led group is a safe place for sharing and hope. Interested participants are encouraged to drop in anytime. Questions? Contact [Renee Hoff](#).

Religious Education @ 10am, Rm 3

Walk to the Rose Garden – hide Kindness Rocks and play non-competitive games among the roses, with Sue Larson, Virginia Bahena, and Kara Holder

Join Us to Stand in Support of Black Lives Matter @ 11:10am- 11:30am

You are invited to stand on Ridge Ave. to support the Black Lives Matter movement. Signs and buttons are available for purchase at the back of the sanctuary. Signs and song lyrics will be provided. Sponsored by the REAL team.

**Bring your Backpacks, Bookbags and Briefcases
to be Blessed August 25th 10am Worship**

As summer nears an end and we get ready to go back to school or more fully back to work, we invite students (and workers) of all ages to bring your backpacks or briefcases in next week, **Sunday, August 25th**, to be blessed in our service. Carry the love, wisdom and courage of Unitarian Universalism with you through your next year of learning and working. The first of what we hope will be an annual back to school tradition at UCE. We're also collecting school supplies to donate to Housing Opportunities for Women. Please bring them in by 8/25 and put them in the bins next to the Giving House.

Save the Dates: October 25, 26, 27, 2019

Social Justice Council Selects Shared Plate Recipients 2019-2020

Thank you to those who submitted applications for our shared offering recipients. As you know, each week in the Sunday worship services, we collect an offering that we split 50/50 with a worthy organization that shares our values. The Social Justice Council met this week to vote on the organizations submitted by UCE members and reviewed and vetted by a sub-team: Sarah Vanderwicken, Jane Bannor, and Joe Romeo. The vetting team rated whether and how the organizations fit within 14 different criteria and offered the council their rating to inform but not determine the council members' votes. We strive for a balance of organizations that address a wide variety of local, state, national and global issues.

We are hopeful that our new **Text-to-give** program will enable the congregation to be even more generous in their Sunday morning offerings to these worthy organizations and the UCE budget. Here is a list of the organizations that will receive one month of the shared offering, plus one organization that will share the offering on the four 5th Sundays in the year. [Click here to see the list](#)

Gender Inclusive Bathrooms in the Lower Level



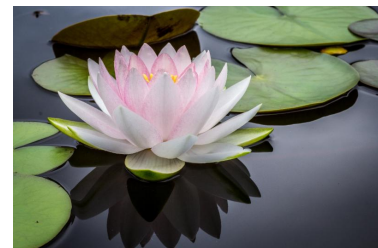
Beginning on August 25th, the washrooms in the lower level will be designated as gender inclusive. This is in line with our values as a gender inclusive community and creating a safe and affirming building for everyone.

We held a Q&A last Tuesday evening, and will have another **Sunday, August 18th at 11:30am in room 3**. Please know that we will do everything we can to allow for curious and brave questions to be raised and answered during these times, and to keep within our covenant.

If you are someone who may experience marginalization in this conversation, we urge you to attend to your own well-being as you decide whether or not to attend. If anyone has questions prior to this meeting, you may reach out to Rev. Eileen, but please try to save your questions for the designated times we are setting aside to discuss this. If your questions can wait, please hold them until those gatherings.

Rain Garden Service of Remembrance

For the fourth year in a row, the Chris Isely Cancer Support Group will sponsor a Service of Remembrance to honor loved ones we have lost. Rev. Eileen and members of the group will lead the brief ceremony, beginning at **9:00 a.m. on Sunday, August 25, 2019**. We will meet in Room 2 before walking to the Rain Garden. Anyone who wishes to honor the memory of a loved one is invited to attend. In the event of rain, the ceremony will take place in Room 2.



CONGREGATION EVENT SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 8th - After 10am Service

*Are you looking forward to digging into some real, congregation-wide interim work?
Do you want to be a part of the conversation we have before we determine a called minister?*



Stay after service on Sunday, September 8th and meet our new interim minister, **Rev. Karen Gustafson**. She will co-lead the service with Rev. Eileen, and then lead us in a discussion of interim work – what it is, where we are, and what we have left to do. Bring your questions, your dreams, your concerns, and we will talk together with spirit and care.

Child care and complimentary catered lunch provided.
RSVP to admin@ucevanston.org by September 6 by 3pm

You are invited to the...

Welcome-to-the-Choir-Season party (2019-2020 edition)

Date: Thursday, August 29, 2019

Time: 7-8:15 pm

Where: UCE Room 3

Who: All are welcome! We'd love you to be there if you've sung in the UCE Choir. We'd also love you to be there if you have *not* sung in the choir but are thinking you might like to give the UCE Choir experience a "test drive."

What: Beverages and Snacks! Info about this upcoming choir season! A chance to have your choir-related questions answered! Choir Schedules and Choir Info Sheets will be available! A chance to get a bit more acquainted with UCE Choristers and prospective UCE Choristers!



A bit o' singing and Fun! Fun! Fun!

Hats Off to Alma Woods



Our hats are off to **Alma Woods**, who founded the Accessibility and Inclusion Team four to five years ago. An occupational therapist by trade, she gathered talented UCE people together who have an understanding of accessibility hardships (sight, hearing, mobility) and were willing to document the areas in our building that needed serious upgrades. People finding it hard to get to meetings on the lower level resulted in A&I working with Sandra Robinson to raise funds and have the LULA installed. Under Alma's leadership, the very hard to open front doors, which were complained about for years, and, working with UCE member Julia Takarada, an engineer, we now have automatic doors. The

Team documented standards for the Sunday morning screen, enabling even those sitting in the rear of the sanctuary to read the words, and had support bars installed in the upper-and-lower floor bathrooms. Members of the A&I Team are working with the capital campaign teams to make sure accessibility issues are considered in any new projects.

A UCE member since 1967, Alma has been a steadfast member of the choir and a dedicated rummage sale volunteer. While she has relinquished the leadership of A&I to Peggy Bocard, Alma remains an active member of the Team.

Multicultural Ministries

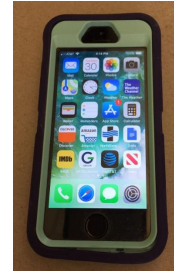
Monday, August 19, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Meadville Lombard Theological School, 610 S. Michigan Avenue
Diverse Revolutionary Unitarian Universalist Multicultural Ministries invites UU People of

Color in the Greater Chicago area to gather for dinner, worship, and facilitated meeting. The goal is to nurture new relationships between UU People of Color in the area, discuss some of the historical development of UU People of Color and anti-racism efforts, and learn more about what the community needs and interests are among those who attend. More information is at the Facebook event. Please RSVP with Rev. Joseph Santos-Lyons at jsantoslyons@uuma.org or by calling (503) 512-0490, ideally by August 15. Participants are asked to bring a dish to share if they are able for dinner.

Giving by Text

Giving by Text is now possible for four areas:
Shared Plate Offering, Coffee & Bagels, UCE Operating Fund
and Capital Campaign.



Send a text message to **312-584-9160** with the amount you would like to contribute and *the code* for where you would like it to go (e.g., **50 OFFERING**). Valid codes are **OFFERING** (Shared Plate Offering), **PLEDGE** (Pledge Payment), **CAP** (Capital Campaign), or **BAGELS** (for coffee/bagels). Example text: **50 OFFERING** (give \$50 to the shared offering). If you forget the funds, simply type in **FUNDS** and the list will pop up.

Within a few minutes, you'll be sent a text with a link to register. Click on the link and enter your cardholder name and debit or card information. Once your registration is complete, you will receive a text verification and a receipt of your donation via e-mail. For future giving, send a text with the amount you wish to give, and it will process automatically! You can even text "repeat" to make it a recurring donation. Text giving is one of the fastest, easiest ways to give. We hope you enjoy this new way to share your generosity, and we thank you for supporting the church. To read more, **click here**. If you experience any issues, contact Adam at agough@ucevanston.org.

Once you have completed this process successfully, you can save the number in your text as UCE Donation and giving becomes one simple step. Please note: You can still pay for Fair Trade Cart and Book H items at those locations on Sunday morning. Joan Retzloff and Margaret Shaklee have an iPad and card reader for those accounts.

*Thank you Adam Gough, our Congregational Life Assistant,
for helping UCE launch this new Give by Text program.*

Capital Campaign Update

Amount as of August 11, 2019

\$842,314

Thank you!

UCE has been my home (and Steve's, too) since the late 80's. The community here is my family, and our best friends are people we met here.

One of the things that will always be a touchstone for me is the way the congregation rallied around me and my family when I was sick many years ago. When Steve threw a party to celebrate my recovery, he invited all 140 people from UCE who had helped with meals, bought groceries, drove me to treatment, watched the kids, visited to keep up my spirits, and so much more. What a testament it was to our values of caring for and supporting one another!

The Capital Campaign is so important to me because I believe we must take care of our physical building to ensure that it will always be HOME to everyone in our congregation, including me. This campaign kicked off just as I retired, so it took some thought and planning to figure out how to give as generously as we wanted. But we did it! Please join

me in caring for and supporting the building that is our home and the place where we care and support each other.

Why I Gave: by Karen Courtright

The Greenwood Group

The Green Wood Group will meet on Thursday, August 22, 7:30-9:30pm in room 12.

Nonfiction Book Group to Meet

The nonfiction book group will meet at **11:30 a.m. on Sunday, August 25 in room 13** to select our books for the coming church year. Everyone is welcome to attend. If possible, please bring a copy of the book(s) you recommend for others to peruse. We'd like to read a variety of books so bring anything of interest to you. Hope to see you there.

Loss Through Suicide Grief Group

Tuesdays July 30 through September 17 @ 6:30pm, Rm 13

Co-led by Ellen Rieger and Rev. Eileen Wiviott. If you have lost someone through suicide, whether your loss is recent or many years ago, we invite you to be a part of a safe, supportive and healing environment. This professionally led group is designed for UCE members and friends but is open to the wider community and will help you navigate through this particular grief. Please contact Ellen Rieger at ellenerieger@gmail.com or 847-791-8602 to register or for further information. You need not sign up for all sessions, but do contact Ellen to let her know who is attending.

Executive Operations Director Vacation

Sandra Robinson is away through Aug 27. While she is way from her email, you can write her at srobinson@ucevanston.org and she will catch up on correspondences when she returns.

Update from Ministerial Search Committee

Have you been wondering what the ministerial search committee is up to? You can find a timeline of the ministerial search process here. We'll be posting regular updates both here in the email newsletter and on the UCE website. And if you have any questions in the meantime, please send us an email to ministerialsearchcommittee@ucevanston.org.

Summer Religious Exploration 2019



**Religious Education Fun
this summer**

Sun Aug 18: Walk to the Rose Garden – hide Kindness Rocks and play non-competitive games among the roses, with Sue Larson, Virginia Bahena, and Kara Holder
Sun Aug 25: Button-Making and Blessing of the Backpacks, with Linda Herreid, Gillian Lawrence and Virginia Bahena

Sun Sep 1: Morning on the Lakefront at Burnham Shores Park, with Carolyn and Hope Leman, Maddie Finkel, and Virginia Bahena.

Sun Sep 8: Ingathering and Water Communion – join Rev Eileen in the UCE sanctuary for this beloved annual intergenerational service, and bring some water from your travels!

Interfaith Block Party on Sept 14th

Rev. Christina Garza of Unity on the North Shore invites the UCE community to an Interfaith Block Party on Sat. Sept. 14, 2019. Goal: gathering stakeholders in our local communities that wish to serve and uplift youth and families by delivering fun and engaging activities and performances. Contact: RevChristinaUnityNS@gmail.com

Some REAL Summer Reading

Suggestions for your reading pleasure and enlightenment over the summer – fill in some of those blank spots we all have in understanding American history.

Despite the Best Intentions: How Racial Inequality Thrives in Good Schools

By John Diamond and Amanda Lewis

On the surface, Riverview High School looks like the post-racial ideal. Serving an enviably affluent, diverse, and liberal district, the school is well-funded, its teachers are well-trained and many of its students are high achieving. Yet Riverview has not escaped the same unrelenting question that plagues schools throughout America: why is it that even when all the circumstances seem right, black and Latino students continue to lag behind their peers? **[For More]**

Pathways to Membership at UCE

Introduction to Unitarian Universalism:

This introduction takes an in-depth look at our progressive faith, including Unitarian Universalist principles, sources, and covenant. Offered by Rev. Eileen quarterly; the next date **Sunday September 29, 12:30-2pm, Rm 3**. Childcare is available upon request.



Journey Toward Membership: The Journey includes the exploration of our spiritual lives and what it means to be a member of an intentional community like the Unitarian Church of Evanston. Led by Rev. Eileen; next meeting date **Saturday November 17, 9 am to Noon, Rm 3**. You can take this class before or after you sign the book. Childcare available upon request.

Invitation to Membership: Are you ready to join the membership of the Unitarian Church of Evanston and make a financial pledge to the work of this church in the world? You are encouraged to let Rev. Eileen know when you are ready to sign the membership book and submit a pledge.

The next **New Member Covenant Sunday**, when we welcome new members, will be later this fall.

Schedule for Rev. Eileen Wiviott

Rev. Eileen Wiviott's office hours

Sunday: By Appt. Only
Monday: Sacred Day Off
Tuesday: 10 AM - 5 PM
Wednesday: 10 AM - 5 PM
Thursday: 10AM - 5 PM
Friday: Writing Day (Offsite)
Saturday: By Appointment Only

Please contact Rev. Eileen via email at ewiviott@ucevanston.org

UCE Community News

Yoga at UCE - Wednesdays @ 9:30am - Rm. 2

Yoga at UCE is designed to reduce stress, bring relaxation, increase range of motion, and find balance - restorative yoga. If you have never done yoga before, this is your opportunity. Drop in, wear comfortable clothing for stretching, and try it. Yoga is learned by doing. Community yoga mats provided if needed.



UCE Addictions & Recovery, Thursdays @ 7:15pm, Rm 2

**Zen and Alcoholism?
Zen and Eating Disorders?
Zen and Co-Dependence?
How about The Zen of Recovery?**

The Thursday evening Addictions and Recovery group is exploring the book of that title by Mel Ash. If you are interested and active in a program of recovery from one addictive issue or other, (or would like to be), we would welcome you. We meet every Thursday evening, 7:15pm – 8:45pm, and will consider topics brought up in this book for as long as we find our discussions interesting.

The books we have looked at so far have provided good topics for discussion for six months to a year. This is the third book we have explored together, so we'll probably find another.

Our Giving House - July & August, 2019



This summer, the congregation is collecting disposable diapers for Bundled Blessings, which makes monthly distributions of diapers to twelve social service agencies in the Evanston area, and has diaper drop-off barrels in five locations throughout Evanston and one in Morton Grove.

Worship Service Flowers & Chalice Lighting

Brighten our worship service with flowers and chalice lighting. Mark a special occasion or honor a loved one. Bring flowers for our chancel and tend the chalice flame in our worship services.

Contact the UCE office at admin@ucevanston.org with the date you'd like to

bring flowers and dedication words for the order of service.
[Click here for sign-up](#)



Opportunities For Spiritual Practice

Tuesdays at 6:30pm Rm. 2

Saturday, 9:00 a.m. Rm. 2

Closed AUGUST for Summer Break

Udumbara resumes full schedule Tuesday, September 3, 2019

Wednesdays at 9:30am Rm. 2

Yoga with Doug Erickson & Jessica Tomell-Presto

Thursdays at 5:30pm Rm.2.

Buddhist meditation with Andrea DeMers

2nd Saturday of each month at 9:30am Rm. 5

Art & Spirituality Space

Things to Know About Our Community

Interested in knowing more about UCE? How to submit something to Joys and Sorrows? How to get a nametag, or a rainbow or pronoun sticker for your nametag? Interested in bringing flowers and lighting the chalice on a Sunday? [Click here for more information about our community!](#)

Board Of Trustees

The Board of Trustees meets the third Thursday of every month.

The next meeting is on **September 19, 7:00pm in Room 6.**

UCE Facebook Groups



Did you know that, in addition to the [UCE Facebook Page](#), there are three UCE groups that members can join - the [UCE Member to Member Group](#), the [UCE Children and Youth Religious Education Group](#), and the [UCE Social Action Group](#)?

These are closed groups that allow members to post directly to each other. If you have an event you want members to know about, or have a cause you hope to bring attention to, in addition to the newsletter and order of service, you can post to the Facebook Group. Click the links above or search for the groups by name when you are on Facebook and ask to join.

Quick Links

ucevanston.org

[Calendar](#)

[Upcoming Worship Services](#)

[Listen to Sermons](#)

[Facebook](#)

[UCE Member to Member Facebook Group](#)

[UCE Children and Youth Religious Education Facebook Group](#)

[UCE Social Action Facebook Group](#)

