

EVANSTON



UNITARIAN NEWS

A Unitarian Universalist Congregation

This Sunday December 15, 2019

Services will be held at 9:15 am AND 11 am this Sunday

Worship Service @ 9:15 am - The Christmas Story

At our 9:15 am worship service, come hear the story of Christmas and enjoy singing carols to celebrate the birth of Jesus. As Unitarian Universalists, one of our Sources draws from the teachings of Christianity and Judaism. Whether or not you believe that Jesus was divine, his influence and teachings are immeasurable. We celebrate the love and light of the Christmas season this Sunday.

The Chris Isely Cancer Support Group @ 9:30 am, 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](#).

Informational Town Hall Meeting @ 10:15 am, Rm 3

Want to know more about the progress on our remodeled kitchen and parking lot renovation projects? The Capital Campaign Implementation Committee will share with you about the kitchen construction and plans, as well as about the research on various parking lot options.

Worship Service @ 11 am - The Christmas Story

Our 11 am worship service will be our traditional Christmas Pageant. Come hear the story of Christmas as we help enact it with costumes, singing, and joy!

Informational Town Hall Meeting @ 12:30 pm, Rm 3

See above. This will be a second opportunity to see the presentation from the Capital Campaign Implementation Committee.

Join Us to Stand in Support of Black Lives Matter @ 12:10 pm- 12:30 pm

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.

From Eileen Wiviott, Acting Senior Minister

“You better watch out. You better not cry. You better not pout I’m telling you why. Santa Claus is coming to town.” We had this joke in my family that arose around the time my brother and I entered the sullen teenage years. In early December, at some point, one of us would make a snarky comment or just generally be bratty and my mom would say (not sing) the words of this song at us as a warning. That’s how we knew we’d officially entered the Christmas season. It was all in good fun and we’d have a chuckle whenever mom started her, “better watch out” bit, but now that I think about it, the song really puts a lot of pressure on kids. If you’re not happy and



nice, Santa will find out and Christmas is cancelled! Jeez.

[Continue Reading](#)

Holiday Greeting from the Board of Trustees

At this special time of year as we celebrate the Holiday Season, the Board of Trustees extends best wishes for a Healthy and Peaceful 2020 to each UCE member and friend. We are especially grateful for our wonderful and caring staff and the generous support they provide to make UCE a beacon of light in Evanston and beyond. The Board also wishes to acknowledge and thank the multitude of volunteers who donate so much time, talent and energy to make UCE such a caring community.

UCE Christmas Eve Services are at 5pm & 9pm

A service needs several people assisting, and both Christmas Eve services need four Hospitality hosts to distribute hymnals and pass collection. And candles need to be available for the candle light services!

If you are going to a specific service and able to help, please contact Melanie Kitchner at mkitchner@gmail.com. Children are also welcome to help!



Lifespan Religious Education Updates



This Sunday – The Story of Christmas All-Ages Worship

Families and young people are invited to this festive worship service to celebrate the Christmas season! All ages will remain in the worship service to hear the Christmas story and sing carols. Religious education will resume next Sunday at 11 am.

All young people and youth are invited to sit together in the **Young UU section** near the front and left of the sanctuary during worship.

Nursery care for 0-3 year-olds and PreK/1st are available in the lower level for those who prefer.

Looking ahead...

Family potluck on **January 5 at 12:30 pm in room 3**. Meet other parents and young people! More details to come!

Forum Program begins! Join us on **January 5 at 9:30 am in room 6** for Welcome Back

to Forum. This program will explore a variety of topics, from current events, social justice issues, and happenings at UCE. Come hear and share ideas on how we can make this a great avenue for lively discussion. More information below.

If you have any questions email Kathy at kunderwood@ucevanston.org.

If you haven't registered for RE yet, click the button below!

[Register for RE Today!](#)

Forum Program Begins!

The "Forum" (until last year known as "Cracker Barrel") has been a program feature at UCE for many years and is starting up again NEXT MONTH. A weekly open gathering of UCE members and friends to discuss a variety of subjects, Forum will meet every Sunday morning from 9:30 to 10:30, with topics announced in advance through the UCE Newsletter. Without a convener for Forum currently, several Forum supporters (John LaPlante, Brian Nielsen, Kay Wade, Chris Houdek, Beth McDonald, and Kathy Underwood, our Director of Lifespan Religious Education) have met to help revive the program and make some



changes that may encourage greater participation within the congregation. Watch for an announcement in the Newsletter *soon* for posting of upcoming topics. And mark your calendar for our first meeting in the new year, coming on **January 5!** We'll be focusing on the future of Forum, how participants can contribute to consideration of topics that might be of particular interest to the church community, and about how other UCE groups can take advantage of Forum to inform more people about their activities.

Deepening Our UU Identity - Starts January 7

What does it mean to be a Unitarian Universalist? Without a common creed or theology, what unites us and grounds us?

Contrary to the common misunderstanding of our inclusivity, that we are the ones who "can believe whatever we want," Unitarian Universalism is a chosen faith that asks a great deal of those who commit to its aspirations and covenants. In this four-part series, we will explore the religious roots of our movement, the covenant that is our seven principles, and the six sources of our faith from which we draw wisdom. We will also delve into a Unitarian Universalist definition of spirituality and a variety of spiritual practices we can engage in. Finally, deepening our understanding of what it means to be a UU grounded in the practice of Beloved Community, right here at UCE. The sessions take place over 4 Tuesdays, **January 7, 14, 21 and 28 from 7-9pm** and will be led by Rev. Wiviott, Rev. Gustafson, and the New Member Committee.

[Learn More!](#)

December Brown Bag Meetings with Rev. Karen

As we decide to spend one more year with each other before calling a new senior minister, let's look at how we are doing as a community. How are we together? We had so many stories last month, that we will continue this month to share stories of how the Covenant of Engagement has informed (or not informed) how our UCE family behaves together, and look at how we might move closer to realizing the Beloved Community among us.



Monday December 16, 7-8:30pm - Rm 3
Thursday, December 19 –noon to 1:30

Your transition team: Rev Karen Gustafson, Judy Holman,
Barbara Ghoshal, David Schroeder, Shirley Adams, Margaret
Shaklee

Updated UCE Communications Guidelines

UCE staff have updated the communications guidelines and they are available under "Member Documents" in the Members section of the UCE website (or click below). This document can be your go-to guide to advertising UCE events within and outside our community. If you have every had any questions about how to submit articles for the newsletter or the website, where to post flyers, or just wanted a guide to get started on advertising your meetings or events, this guide is for you.



[Read UCE's Communications Guidelines](#)

Attention Dog Owners!



We are a dog-friendly church, we are welcoming to support animals, AND we have some folks in the church who are highly allergic to dogs (and maybe some who are afraid of dogs). In order to make the space accommodating to people with various needs, we're asking those who bring their friendly, well-behaved, and leashed dogs to church to sit in the support animal zone.

This will be a few of the designated tables in the back by the Ridge side door and the row right in front of those tables. They'll be marked with signs. This way, those with allergies can sit and admire your wonderful pooch from a healthy distance. Even if your dog is hypoallergenic, some can still be allergic. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to Rev. Eileen at 847-864-1330 x 201.

Thanks for your help in making UCE a safe and healthy place for all.

Brighten Sunday Service with Flowers and Light

UCE needs volunteers to bring flowers and light the chalice during Sunday services. There are no sign ups for the next few months. Do you have a special occasion coming up? Do you have a holiday tradition that you are grateful for? Are you just missing a bit of Spring and want to share some hope and joy with the congregation? Whatever your reason, big or small, we would love to have you be a special part of one of UCE's Sunday services. Bring the flowers and your words for the order of service and we'll provide the rest.



Sign up on the button below or on the sign up sheet in the back of the sanctuary on Sunday. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Jessica at admin@ucevanston.org.

Learn more about MPP and Resistbot



Horrified by the humanitarian crisis that US policies are creating at our southern border? Want to let all your representatives know how you feel, with one simple text?

The Immigrant Solidarity Team would like to help. Please look for an IST member near the coffee or wandering the sanctuary, wearing a bright tag that invites questions about MPP and Resistbot, before or after the 11 o'clock service this Sunday through December 22.

A Few Serendipity Items Still Available for Bidding!

Did you happen to miss the auction? Or were you there and missed bidding on an event you really want to attend? Now is your chance! We have a few group events that did not fully sell out, plus several service items from local businesses. Take a look by clicking [here](#) and you are sure to find an interesting party or dinner!

**BIDDING
BONDING
BOODLE**

Hats Off to Greg Grabowski!



Hats Off to Greg Grabowski for his hours of work on researching multiple alternatives for our new parking lot, as project leader. Each week I passed Greg in the table downstairs working with Ann Peterson going over RFQs, talking to contractors and meeting with capital campaign leaders and staff. Greg is also a member of the Membership Committee.

Thank you Greg for your dedication and the valuable knowledge and skills you bring to UCE.

Volunteer Leadership Workshop Part 2 - Jan 11

Forty-two leaders met with Rev Karen Gustafson on Saturday, November 23, to talk about how our groups are working and working together (or not) in our UCE community. We generated lots of hopes – to listen and be heard, to identify natural alliances, to imagine a future bigger than the past, to tap into the wisdom in the room, and more - - and identified needs -- for better communication, more diversity, training for leadership, and more – and now we want to make some real plans.

Put it on our calendar to attend our Volunteer Leadership Workshop part 2 on:

Saturday, January 11, 1:30-5:30

(note date change from an earlier announcement)

At that time we will set some goals and priorities and divide and assign some tasks to smaller groups who can begin to craft plans to address the bigger questions.

We have the luxury here of a system that is already working well enough to generate a history of good institutional energy and commitment. Let's keep the juices flowing!

Register for this workshop today!

Mark Your Calendars - Worship Arts Jam 2020!

The second annual Worship Arts Jam will happen **Saturday, Jan. 18, 2020, from 7 to 9 pm**. If you have a song, a dance, a poem, a story (or even a bagpipe!), you are welcome to come and play! Contact Robb Geiger at rjg6177@gmail.com to join the fun that night.



Save the Date - REAL presents Featured Speaker on Wed, Jan 29



The UCE Racial Equity team is excited to announce a special event on **Wednesday, January 29th from 7pm to 8:30pm at the Unitarian Church of Evanston in Room 6**. Mark your calendars for "An Evening with Daniel Epstein: Institutional bias and corruption in Illinois's court system, and how to fix it." More details to come soon! Questions? Contact Martha Holman at Holman.martha@gmail.com.

Rev. Karen Gustafson Availability

Rev. Karen Gustafson returns **Thursday, December 12** and will be with us through Thursday, December 19.

Rev. Karen will be hosting Brown Bag Discussions on the follow dates:

Monday, December 16 @ 7-8:30pm
Thursday, December 19 @ noon-1:30pm

Feel free to e-mail kgustafson@ucevanston.org or call (847) 864-1330 ext 111.

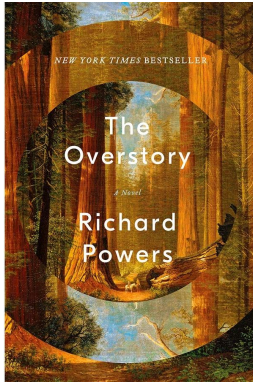
Learn more about the Interim!

Green Tip from the UCE Green Team!

Here at UCE, many of us love to travel. Others of us have work-related reasons for traveling. Yet, how do we grapple with the reality that traveling has a very detrimental impact on the climate? Per the New York Times, "going someplace far away ... is the biggest single action a private citizen can take to worsen climate change. One seat on a flight from New York to Los Angeles effectively adds months' worth of human-generated carbon emissions to the atmosphere."



Fiction Book Group



The fiction book group will not meet in December, but check out the next titles for Winter 2020.

January 17: *The Overstory* by Richard Powers

February 21: *Unsheltered* by Barbara Kingsolver

March 20: *Small Country* by Gael Faye

For more information, [visit the UCE website](#).

Non-fiction Book Group

The non-fiction book group will meet **December 22, 2019** at 12:30pm in room 13 to discuss *Killers of the Flower Moon: the Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI* by David Grann. Copies of the book are available at the Book H and at public libraries.

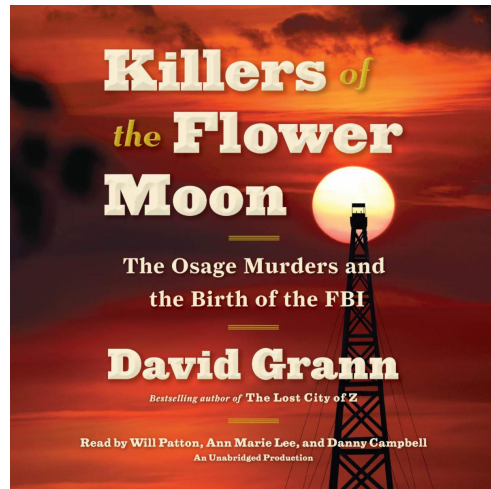
Jan. 26, 2020

The Sixth Extinction: an Unnatural History by Elizabeth Kolbert. 2015. 319 p.

Feb. 23, 2020

Hooked: Buddhist Writings on Greed, Desire and the Urge to Consume. 2005. 271 p.

[Click here](#) to view the entire year's list.



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), **MUSIC** (music fund), or **BAGELS** (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.

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 approximately every other month; the next date **Sunday January 12, 12:30-2 pm, 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 February 29, 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.

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: 10 AM - 5 PM

Friday: Writing Day (Offsite)

Saturday: By Appointment Only

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

UCE Community News

Our Giving House - December 2019

This month the Giving House will not be collecting items for donations. The Mitten Tree is collecting gifts for organizations in the area. If you are interested in volunteering reach out to Carol Nielsen at carolnielsen2100@gmail.com. We'll start back up in January collecting Canned tuna, salmon, chicken for Connections for the Homeless. Your generosity is always greatly appreciated!

Check out the [Giving House Calendar 2019-2010](#).



Yoga at UCE - Wednesdays @ 9:30 am - 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 @ 7:15 pm, 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.

Opportunities For Spiritual Practice

**Tuesdays at 6:30 pm Rm 2
Saturday, 9:00 am Rm 2**
Udumbara

Wednesdays at 9:30 am Rm 2
Yoga with Doug Erickson & Jessica Tomell-Presto

Thursdays at 5:30 pm Rm 2
Buddhist meditation with Andrea DeMers

2nd Saturday of each month at 9:30 am 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 **December 19, 7:00 pm in Room 6.**

Questions for the board? Email BOT@ucevanston.org.

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](#)