

EVANSTON



UNITARIAN NEWS

A Unitarian Universalist Congregation

This Sunday December 22, 2019

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

Worship Service @ 9:15 am

"Keeping Our Fire Burning" - Hanukkah reminds us of the miracle of the sacred oil that lasted, long past expectation, long enough to be renewed. Collectively, we find renewal in community and kindle the flame of faith together. Rev. Eileen Wiviott leads the service. John LaPlante is our Worship Leader. Childcare is available for infants through 1st grade 9 am – noon. Religious Education for 2nd grade – High school at the 11 a.m. hour, beginning in the worship service.

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](#).

Worship Service @ 11 am

"Keeping Our Fire Burning" - See above.

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.

Celebration for Kathy Talmage!

Join us in celebrating our retired Kitchen Maven, Kathy Talmage, after the 11am service this Sunday! There will be cake and lots of happy memories. We look forward to seeing everyone there.

It's Time for a Little Kitchen Yard Sale

Remember to bring cash or a checkbook and stop by the storage shelves on the way to the kitchen. They are filled with items that we will not be using in the new kitchen. Highlights of the sale include mugs, plates, large soup pots, utensils, and unexpired food items. Many helpful women have been working with Sandra and Carol to pack the kitchen. Boxes were packed and the cupboards are almost empty.

This Sunday will be the last time until the renovation is complete that we serve coffee from the kitchen. Coffee will be brewed in Room 3, and rolled to the sanctuary for serving. Packaged food items only with whole fruit can be served. No prep work or condiment usage will be possible during this time. We will provide updates to the hospitality team leaders so they will know what to do each Sunday. If you have questions contact Sandra Robinson.

From Kathy Underwood, Director of Lifespan Religious Education

This time of year can be a joyous one as well as a challenging one for many. There can be conflicting emotions



– the beauty of a winter snowfall yet the cold darkness as the sun sets at 4:20 in the afternoon; the joy of family as well as the missing of those who have died or moved away; the baking of holiday cookies and the hustle and bustle yet the feelings of being overwhelmed and having to do it all.

So far in my life, the time I felt these conflicting emotions happened when my children were younger. I wanted them to have happy holiday memories to carry them into adulthood. For many years, I ended up feeling like Scrooge and resentful. Then one year I got seriously ill with an infection and ended up in the hospital for a week in early December and spent another six weeks slowly recovering. The universe has a way of telling us when to slow down!

[Continue Reading](#)

Christmas Eve Services at 5pm & 9pm

So long ago, and not so long ago, a child was born in the desert, under the light of a bright star, into the waiting world. We celebrate the hope, the possibility, the beauty that each life brings with candlelight services at 5pm and 9pm. All are welcome!

If you are able to pass out hymnals or the offering baskets, please contact Melanie Kitchner at mkitchner@gmail.com. Children are more than welcome to help, as well!



Lifespan Religious Education Updates



This Sunday in Religious Education

As we continue exploring our theme of "Awe" this month, our young people will explore the awe of new life, as it connects to Christmas and the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

9:15 am - All are invited to worship. Nursery care for 0-2 year-olds and Pre/K/1 for 3-7 year-olds are available in the lower level.

11:15 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, and the high school youth have offered to watch over the youngsters in this area, so that parents who wish can enjoy worship hands/arms-free!

The young people will be sung out to their religious education program after the Time for All Ages. Nursery care for 0-3 year-olds and Pre/K/1 are available in the lower level.

Next Week...

We will have our first Chalice Circle! This is a special time for young people of all ages to share together. We will be focusing on the New Year and ways to do social justice work together.

January 5:

- Forum program begins at 9:30 am in room 6.
- Family Potluck after the 11 am worship service in room 3 – bring a dish to share.

Looking for easy ways to help?

- Help organize the RE book collection
- Be a helper with the 4th/5th grade room
- Serve on the Lifespan Learning Council

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!](#)

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!](#)

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.

[Sign up to bring flowers and light the chalice.](#)

Memorial service for George Nelson - Sat, Jan 4 @ 1 pm

Plan to gather for a celebration of life for our beloved George Nelson on **Saturday**,

January 4 at 1pm. As always, we celebrate by gathering our resources for a reception following the service. If you would like to help present the reception by setting up, serving, or cleaning up, or by bringing food, sign up below. We are a MANY HANDS community! Contact Lynn Kendall (lynn.kendall@gmail.com), Lois Taft (taftlb@uwec.edu), or Margaret Shaklee (mshaklee4417@gmail.com) with questions.

Sign up to volunteer at the Memorial Service.

Learn and Practice your Spanish!

Spanish Classes resume January 13th, Monday nights, 7-8 pm. We encourage beginning Spanish that fosters a friendly learning environment. In addition to learning Spanish language, we learn Latinx culture.

January Brown Bag Meetings with Rev. Karen



The Mission of UCE is stated as “Nurturing the human spirit for a world made whole.” This is a strong, easy to remember, easily articulated statement, in the tradition of all good mission statements. What does that mean, really? What understanding do we share as a congregation? How does it live for us? For you?

Join Rev Karen and the transition team in concerted reflection and spirited discussion:

Tuesday, January 14, Noon-1:30pm
Wednesday, January 15, 7-8:30pm
Friday, December 17, 10-11:30am

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

UCE Solidarity Circles are happening!

About 10 UCE members are participating in two UU Prison Ministry of IL “solidarity circles”. Each circle is centered around a person who is adjusting to the return from prison, and who is the leader of the circle. Both leaders and participants learn from and find meaning in the experience. We meet regularly, sharing knowledge and walking together through the challenging process of re-integrating into society. One of the circles has worked with the City of Evanston Youth and Young Adult Services to identify a circle leader, and a City of Evanston staff member is a member of the circle. The UCE Endowment Fund provided money for small emergency grants to UUPMI solidarity circles this year, helping five circle leaders with financial needs.

If you are interested in participating in a circle at some point, please attend the evening program at UCE **March 17, 24, 31 and April 7** on Radical Hospitality: Welcoming People Returning from Prison, and contact Dale Griffin at dalegriffin@comcast.net.



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
PRISON MINISTRY
OF ILLINOIS

Update from the Immigrant Solidarity Team

The Immigrant Solidarity Team (IST) would like to thank all those who talked to us before and after services the last couple of weeks. We appreciate that you joined us in contacting our elected officials about the Migration Protection Protocols. Unfortunately, the federal budget passed by the House continues to include funding for MPP. However, Jan Schakowsky voted against this budget! Please call to thank her.

Our faith tells us that the path to justice is long and can be filled with joy when we are traveling together. We will continue to work to support migrants, refugees and asylum seekers who live nearby as well as those forced to remain in inhumane conditions in Texas and Mexico and detention centers. The IST will keep you informed about these activities and will ask for your help again so that together we will not give up hope that our efforts will help to bring justice for our siblings in spirit who do not have a voice.

Walk for Warmth - Looking for Walkers & Donors!



Join Barbara Butz, UCE delegate to Interfaith Action of Evanston (IAE), in a special Walk for Warmth 2020. IAE needs to raise \$70,000 to keep the Evanston emergency overnight shelter doors open every night this winter. Volunteers do a tremendous job, but there are plenty of expenses that require FUNDING! Help make sure that no one in Evanston has to sleep outside in the cold this winter.

From **11 am to- 2:30 pm on January 20**, Martin Luther King Day, we will walk a 2-mile walk route covering six churches – including UCE – that house emergency overnight shelters this winter. The walk

will start and end at First United Methodist Church, 516 Church Street. Refreshments provided!

*Will you join Barbara on a UCE team of walkers? Bundle up and click WALK below.
Can't walk but want to donate? click DONATE below.*

[WALK](#)

[DONATE](#)

The Overnight Emergency Shelter Needs Your Help!

Interfaith Action of Evanston, of which UCE is an important part, needs your help. This year the overnight emergency shelter is open every night from November 17-Mid March. We need more volunteers to work on all shifts. If you've been trained in the past, you are undoubtedly getting e-mails listing the schedule. Please sign up where you can to help our neighbors who have no warm place to stay at night.



UCE will host the shelter from January 19-February 9. We'd love it if you sign up to work at any of the 6 faith communities that host the shelter. We'd especially love your help here, but please remember, all the faith communities work together on this project.

Need training, or have any questions about what you can do to help? Call or text Toni Rey at 847-847-7644.

Hats Off to Johna Van Dyke!



Thank you to Johna Van Dyke for her time and talent in preparing the costumes for the Christmas Pageant, organizing the costumes and crew to help dress people during the pageant, and then re-organizing everything and storing it away for next year. As if that wasn't enough, she also took charge of getting some shelving for the storage area in the art room!

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!

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

[Register for this workshop today!](#)

Mark Your Calendars - Worship Arts Jam 2020!

Have you been inspired by something you heard in a worship service? Would you like to hear it again? Do you have a favorite reading, song, or dance - maybe something you created - that you think is inspirational? Would you like to share it with others?

Come to the second annual Worship Arts Jam on **Saturday, Jan. 18, 2020, from 7 to 9 pm**

sponsored by the Worship Arts Committee! This is the UCE coffeehouse reimaged. If you have a song, a dance, a poem, a story (or even a bagpipe!), you are welcome to come and play! To participate, contact Robb Geiger at rjg6177@gmail.com and join the fun that night.



REAL presents "An Evening with Daniel Epstein" - Wed, Jan 29

The UCE Racial Equity team brings you this event on Wednesday, January 29th from 7pm to 8:30pm at the Unitarian Church of Evanston, 1330 Ridge (Ridge and Greenwood) in the Sanctuary.

An evening with Daniel Epstein: Institutional bias

and corruption in Illinois's court system, and how to fix it.



Daniel Epstein served clients in the Supreme Court of the United States and in jurisdictions across the country, including Illinois, where he witnessed deep systemic problems in our justice system. He saw how money, rather than merits, can determine outcomes; how pseudoscience in our courtrooms has produced false verdicts; how conflicts of interest can infect our courts; how important evidence can be hidden; how pressure to close cases imposes a huge tax on the

community; and how some can't even take the first step toward justice because courts are inaccessible to them. He also saw how we can fix those problems.

Daniel is an Evanston native and resident who worked for Jenner & Block, where he was awarded for his pro bono service. While there he co-authored the 2018 Illinois Civil Practice Guide, chaired the Chicago Bar Association committee on Alternative Dispute Resolution, and founded a nonprofit providing security cameras and solar panels to a block in Chicago's Austin neighborhood.

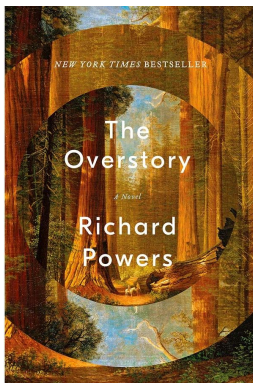
Green Tip from the UCE Green Team

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 humangenerated carbon emissions to the atmosphere."



[Read More.](#)

Fiction Book Group



The fiction book group will not meet in December. Check out the upcoming 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.

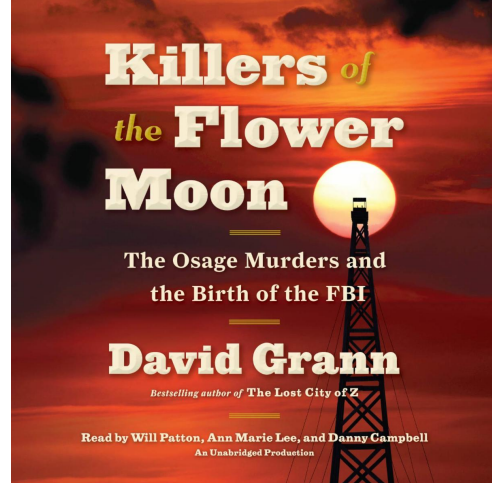
Jan. 26, 2020

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.

Rev. Karen Gustafson Availability

Rev. Karen Gustafson returns **Friday, January 10** and will be with us through Wednesday, January 22.

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

Tuesday, January 14 @ noon-1:30pm

Wednesday, January 15 @ 7-8:30pm

Friday, January 17 @ 10-11:30am

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

[Learn more about the Interim!](#)

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.

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](#)