

EVANSTON

UNITARIAN NEWS

A Unitarian Universalist Congregation

This Sunday February 9, 2020

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

Worship Service @ 9:15 am - Rev. Eileen Wiviott

"The Beauty and Truth of Evolution" – Evolution is an adaptive response to what is, not necessarily what should be. If evolution is an amoral force, that is to say neither good nor bad, can we evolve and adapt to life in an ethical way? Adapting to new realities as co-creators of a world made whole. A service in honor of the life of Charles Darwin. Singer/Songwriter Kristin Lems is our musical guest.

The Chris Isely Cancer Support Group @ 9:30 am, Rm 13

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](#).

Forum Discussion Group @ 9:30 am, Rm 7

Join the Forum Discussion Group this Sunday with the topic: *Beloved Conversations at UCE*. The Forum Discussion group is self-managed, and participants are encouraged to propose topics, serve as moderators and present issues to discuss.

Worship Service @ 11 am - Rev. Eileen Wiviott

"The Beauty and Truth of Evolution" - 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.

Budget Town Hall Meeting @ 10:15 am and 12:30 am, Rm 6

Please join us on Sunday for a Budget Town Hall Meeting. There will be two – one at 10:15 between services and one following the second service at 12:30 p.m. in Room 6. We will bring you up to date on the draft budget that has been developed by the ISC Budget Working Group, the Integrated Stewardship Council, and the Board of Trustees. For more information email me at srobinson@ucevanston.org or call 847-864-1330.

Welcome Musical Guest, Kristin Lems!

New Yorker magazine called performing songwriter Kristin Lems a "charmer in the most literal and least artificial sense of the word" and Gloria Steinem called her "a one woman argument against the notion that the women's movement has no sense of humor." Kristin's songs are in songbooks, playlists, and productions, and her song *Ballad of the ERA* is included in a new Smithsonian Folkways 5 CD boxed set called the Social Power of Music. Kristin sings for adults and for children and has recently completed a musical about her family's relationship with Hull House and Jane Addams during the "gay 90's" in Chicago.



Check out UUtheVote!

Each Sunday this month, stop by the UUtheVote table after services and write some postcards to Wisconsin. It is easy and effective at getting people out to vote.

If you want to do more, join the UUtheVote team and learn more about other ways to GOTV and live our UU values of democracy and community building.

News from UCE Ministers and Staff

From the Interim Minister, Rev. Karen Gustafson

"Finding the stories." This is the interim task for February. This month I am inviting you to share the stories of how UCE "nurtured your spirit" and encouraged you to express your best intention to make a positive difference in the world around you or beyond.

If this seems like a difficult assignment, let me give you some prompts to help you get started.

In the car or in the shower or when you need a break from a tedious task, focus your attention on a time when you experienced something at UCE that you carried into the day or the week.



[Continue Reading](#)

REvisioning Lifespan Religious Education - Feb 15



Come share your hopes and dreams for the future of our Religious Education program for Children and Youth!

Continental breakfast and lunch, Children/Youth program* and childcare provided.

We will explore questions such as:

- How might we create more opportunities for our young people to grow their UU identity?
- How might we include them more in the life of the congregation?

8:30 am - Continental breakfast
9 am - Program begins

We greatly want older children and youth to participate! We want to hear from them about the future of our program!

[RSVP here by February 13!](#)

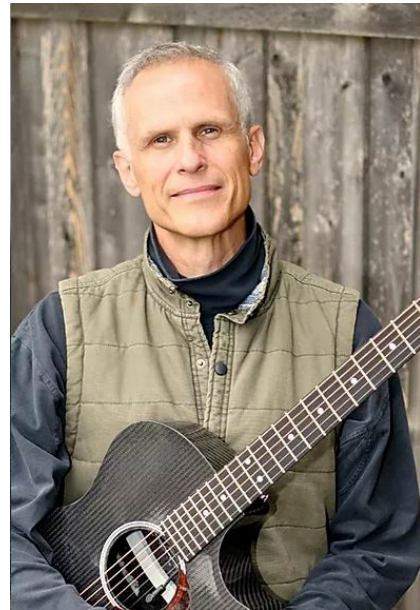
Peter Mayer in Concert at UCE!

“His guitar work is breath-taking, his lyrics mind-spinning, his singing soul-soothing and his feet-on-the-ground optimism nothing short of healing.”

--Marilyn Rea-Beyer, music director, WUMB Radio, Boston

Peter Mayer, the Minneapolis-based UU and singer-songwriter who wrote “Blue Boat Home,” will perform in our UCE sanctuary on **Saturday evening, February 22**. Tickets are on sale now.

Peter will also join us for a combined 10:30 a.m. worship service on February 23 as we kick off our 2020 Pledge Campaign. A Spiritual Practice session will be offered by Rev. Eileen at 9:15am on February 23, but we would love for you to stay for the festivities following the 10:30am service as we celebrate our rededication to UCE's mission and each other.



Mark your calendars and plan to join us! Tickets are available for purchase by clicking the button below.

[Buy your tickets today!](#)

You're Invited to Celebrate the Re-dedication of UCE's Mission and the Start of UCE's Annual Pledge Drive

“Nurturing the human spirit for a world made whole.”

On **February 23 at 10:30am** you are invited to participate in a worship experience celebrating and re-dedicating UCE to its Mission. This service will include the singer/songwriter Peter Mayer and stories from you of how your life is informed by the mission of UCE.

Please take some time to consider what about your connection to UCE nurtures your spirit. Recall a time when a UCE-associated experience, relationship, enhanced awareness, or intentional practice fed your better self; when you have been inspired or found hope or restored confidence. Think about something that happened at UCE when you knew that you were not alone but part of something greater than yourself; when you experienced or witnessed the the “love that is the spirit of this church.” How has your spirit been nurtured?

[Read More!](#)

Hats Off to Ann Peterson!

Our hats are off to Ann Peterson who has been a dedicated, loyal and caring leader in our congregation for many years. Ann has



steered our Leadership Development Team, was the initial driving force for our successful Capital Campaign, guiding projects and coordinating teams. She has also been someone who has forged connections and caring relationships over many years - an integral part of lunch groups, book groups, and providing support to members and friends, without fanfare or accolades. Ann, you are loved and treasured by so many. We are grateful for all the ways you have and continue to nurture spirits and make the world more whole.

Caring Committee and Pastoral Associates: Appreciation and Planning Dinner

Hosted by Lois Taft, Rev. Eileen and Rev. Karen

If you are or have been a Caring Committee volunteer or a Pastoral Associate, or if you are interested in participating in the future, you are invited to a dinner at UCE on Friday evening **February 21st 6-8:30 pm**. Rev. Karen will be joining us, and we will look at our activities from a transitions planning perspective.

After dinner, we would like to have a conversation on these topics:

- What would we like Pastoral Care to look like at UCE?
- How are the Pastoral Associates and the Caring Committee different?
- What's the best way to set up rides to church for those who aren't able to drive?
- What's the best way to welcome and support parents of new babies?
- Are there other ways to share some of the caring activities?

Please RSVP if you plan to attend by using the button below.

[RSVP Today!](#)

What's Happening in Lifespan Religious Education?

This Sunday in Religious Education

As we continue looking into our theme of "Resilience" this month, we will be doing something a bit different this Sunday: playing games to test our resiliency. We will meet in room 5. Our middle school youth continues learning about the Black Church and looking at how resilience relates to it. The high school youth will begin planning their youth-led worship service.



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

9:30 am - Forum Discussion Group - *Beloved Conversations at UCE*
High school youth and adults are invited to join us in room 7 to learn about this program offered by Meadville Lombard Theological School that many people from UCE have participated in recently.

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, where 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. Young people in preschool-5th grades will go to room 5. **Parents can meet their youngsters in room 5 after worship.** Middle school and high school youth will go to their regular programs. Nursery care for 0-2 years old and for 3-7 years old are available in the lower level for those who would like to use it. Children can be picked up at 12:15p after religious education.

12:15 pm – Happy Birthday, Darwin! Cake will be served during Fellowship Hour to honor Charles Darwin and his contributions to science.

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

[Register for RE Today!](#)

Current Programs and Events

Darwin

Tuesdays, February 11, 18, 25 @ 7-9pm

Facilitated by UCE members Dick Whitaker and Bill Irons.

We will celebrate Darwin's birthday with a month-long series of classes on the history of his theory of evolution, from his time to the present. On February 11th, we will summarize the Voyage of the Beagle and publication of "The Origin of Species." On February 18th, we will review the "Descent of Man" and the ensuing decades. On February 25th, Bill Irons will give a talk on Modern Darwinian thought.

Life Planning Series: Planning for What Matters Most

Wednesdays, February 12 @ 7-9pm

To register, [click here](#). Questions? Contact Carol Nielsen at carolnielsen2100@gmail.com

This session will continue to focus on hospice and palliative care and considerations about death and dying. UCE Members Cathy Deamant, Bob Mesle and Ellen Rieger will be session leaders joined by psychiatrist, Dr. Lisa Gobbi. Even if you have done some of this preparatory work for serious illness and death, please join the presentation and discussion as it always helps to affirm what you have already done and discuss any new or lingering issues that you may have. There will be handouts, discussions and plenty to learn.

UCE Book Groups

The fiction book group will meet on **Friday, February 21** in room 2 to discuss *Unsheltered* by Barbara Kingsolver. This is a rescheduled meeting from January 17. The non-fiction book group will meet this **Sunday, February 23** at 12:30pm in room 13 to discuss *Hooked: Buddhist Writings on Greed, Desire and the Urge to Consume*. Copies of the books are available at the Book H and at public libraries. For more information about UCE Book Groups and upcoming books, [click here](#).

Upcoming Programs and Events

REvisioning Lifespan Religious Education

February 15, 2020 at 8:30 am

All are invited to join us on **February 15 at 8:30am** to share our hopes and dreams for our religious education program for children and youth. Childcare and lunch will be provided. Older children and youth are encouraged to come and share their thoughts too. RSVP by February 13 [here](#).

Next Sunday...

We continue exploring our theme of *Resilience*. The young people will be looking at how we use humor to become more resilient. Our middle school youth will be visiting Second Baptist Church in Evanston.

The Forum Discussion Group will have a presentation on *The Myth of the Gender Binary*, led by Christine Peters and Rev. Eileen Wiviott.

Calling all Youth!

Have you ever wanted to experience General Assembly? Every June, UUs from all over gather to vote on issues that matter, learn new things at a variety of workshops, enjoy inspiring and rocking worship services, and hang out with other UU youth. Learn more about it [here!](#) See information on scholarship opportunities below!

Family Fun and Resources for February's Theme, *Resilience*



Soul Matters

Click [here](#) for ways to connect as a family to our faith!

Side with Love



...is an interfaith public advocacy campaign promoting respect for the inherent worth and dignity of every person. Side with Love confronts issues of exclusion, oppression, and violence based on identity. With the goal of creating beloved community, the campaign pursues social change through advocacy, public witness, and speaking out in solidarity with those whose lives are publicly demeaned.

Families/couples can use [this calendar](#) as a guide to activities to do together.

Looking for Ways to Help?

If any of these opportunities spark your inner light, email Kathy at kunderwood@ucevanston.org.

- Help organize the RE book collection
- Be a helper with the 2nd/3rd or 4th/5th grade room
- Serve on the Lifespan Learning Council - Meeting March 4



Upcoming Events and Social Justice Opportunities

Composting at UCE



The New Year is upon us, and it is time to make your New Year's resolutions. One resolution that we can help you with is to compost your food waste to demonstrate your caring for our green planet. Join with other church

members this year in using the church's composting service for a small annual contribution of \$60 per person (up to a \$180 maximum per household). You may have noticed the green containers at the southeast corner of our church parking lot. They are there for your use once you have committed to this service.

If you are interested in joining this movement for 2020, print and fill out the form and submit it to the church office (by mail or in person) and we will sign you up. And for an additional \$10, we will provide you with your very own kitchen counter composting bucket. (Most plastic bags are not acceptable containers unless you know that they are compostable.) If you have any questions about this program, please contact Compost Program Coordinator John LaPlante or check with the church office.

[Download the Composting at UCE form](#)

New Scholarship Funds for Youth and Adults

Great news for youth and adults who need financial support to engage in some of our most exciting UU programs. Our Endowment Committee recently has made funds available for helping UCE get delegates to General Assembly in June, MidAmerica Assembly in April, MidWest Leadership School in July and also the workshops offered by the UU College of Social Justice. We will have online applications available in early February. Check your schedules and consider applying for scholarship funds to cover registration, transportation, housing and food. Funds available for youth and adults.



Illinois Fair Tax

Learn how and why the upcoming tax amendment will be 'Fair' and meet other UU's from our state advocacy network.

Saturday, Feb 8th, 10am-12noon @ SEIU Healthcare, 2229 S. Halsted, we are going to educate our base about Fair Tax and energize them to take action and start our field work. We need to learn how to talk persuasively about this amendment. **Let's fill the room to the brim with our UUtheVote folks!**



The Night of the Arts is February 8!

Reviving a tradition started by artist and UCE member Rosemary Zwick, The Rosemary Zwick Night of the Arts this year is **Saturday, February 8 from 6-9pm**. The cost is \$5.00 per person, or \$15.00 per family. The sanctuary will be filled with people of all ages enjoying a variety of art projects. Some projects will be individual for taking home, and some will be group projects for display. Make a valentine for your honey, enjoy music and noshes, and ward off the winter blahs. It may be cold outside, but we'll keep it warm and cozy inside making art.



If you are interested in doing a project or volunteering, contact Johna Van Dyke 847.864.7852 or cell 312.399.5745, e-mail at johnavandyke@gmail.com or Will Van Dyke, cell 312.399.5734, e-mail willvd@sbglobal.net

Judicial Candidates Forum at UCE



Judicial Candidates Forum

On **February 13, from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**, UCE will host a Judicial Candidates Forum, in which 10-12 judicial candidates will introduce themselves and answer questions from a moderator and from the audience. The event is sponsored by the Community Renewal Society, and is designed to inform voters about the issues and choices in this year's judicial elections. Please

come and educate yourselves about these judicial candidates.

You're Invited to the Northwestern Women's Basketball Game!

Rainbow Alliance invites everyone to attend the Northwestern Women's Basketball game on **Feb. 16th at 2pm**. There is no sign-up, just show up, find the UCE folks, and have fun while we all watch the game together. Save the date now! Email Jeanne Kerl, figkerl@gmail.com with any questions.



Help us lobby to end the current Money Bond Bail System in Illinois

CRS

COMMUNITY RENEWAL SOCIETY

KNOWLEDGE ACTION CHANGE

More than a quarter million people are incarcerated pretrial every year in Illinois. Most of them are in jail because they cannot afford to post a money bond for bail.

We can change the law and end this unfair system. On **February 25** the Community Renewal Society is sponsoring a Lobby Day in Springfield, where we can directly ask our state legislators to support the Pretrial Fairness Act which will drastically reduce the number of people incarcerated in Illinois. Buses will leave from Evanston or Rogers Park early in the morning and return about 7 p.m. Please contact Dennis Wilson if you decide to attend or have any further questions.

UUBIPOC Gathering - March 3

If you are a Unitarian Universalist BIPOC*, you are invited to an informal spiritual gathering at Meadville Lombard Theological School, 610 S. Michigan Ave. Chicago, IL 60605 on **Tuesday, March 3, 2020 @ 5:30-7:30pm!** Please bring snacks or finger food to share. Meadville Lombard will supply soft drinks, some wine, and paper plates and napkins. To learn more and RSVP, click button below!

*BIPOC is widely seen as an imperfect term that, historically, refers to the shared experiences of social and structural oppression experienced by people of African descent, Asian/Pacific Islanders, Arabs, Latinx, Native Americans and mixed-race people. In today's highly divisive climate, it might also include colonized friends who are immigrants and those whose national affiliation and language are the source of marginalization and social/structural oppression.

[Visit our website](#)

Schedule for Rev. Eileen Wiviott & Rev. Karen Gustafson

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

Rev. Karen Gustafson will return Thursday, February 13 and be with us through Sunday, February 23.

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

[Learn more about the Interim!](#)

Welcome to 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? Scroll down for info on ongoing programs and useful information. Can't find your answers here? Click the button below to learn more on our website.

[More things to know about our UCE community](#)

Pathways to Membership



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 is **Sunday, March 22, 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.

Our Giving House - February 2020

This month the Giving House will be collecting socks for Connections for the Homeless. Your generosity is always greatly appreciated!

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



Giving By Text at UCE



Giving by Text is now possible for four areas: Shared Plate Offering, Coffee & Bagels, Music Fund, UCE Operating Fun, 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 Retzlloff and Margaret Shaklee have an iPad and card reader for those accounts.

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](#)

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 Buddhist Zen Community

All Welcome. For more information, click [here](#).

Wednesdays at 9:30 am Rm 2

Yoga with Doug Erickson & Jessica Tomell-Presto

For more information, click [here](#).

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

March 21, 2020 at 1-3pm - Rm 3

Dances of Universal Peace

For more information, click [here](#).

Board Of Trustees

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

The next meeting is on **February 20, 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](#)