

Do

Even more

CUUPS

The Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans, Inc. (CUUPS) is an Interest Group of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) honoring goddess-based, earth-centered, tribal and pagan spiritual paths. Membership in CUUPS is open to Unitarian Universalists and those in sympathy with the Unitarian Universalist Purposes and Principles. UU Paganism is a community instilled with specific UU values that include the celebration of diversity and respect for all. UU Paganism does not tie a person to any particular dogma in the earth-centered religious traditions. Each person is free to choose his/her own spiritual "truth." Contact Ernie Stephens, Facilitator, at ESStep3202@yahoo.com or 815-621-5575 for more information.

*** WOMEN'S RETREAT**

In February, the Women's Retreat will merge with the Central Midwest District (Women & Religion) "Winter Women Spirit" conference that is held annually at various locations in the Midwest. On February 3-5, 2012 our church will be hosting this conference which hosts 250 or more UU women from all over the Midwest. Watch *Kairos* for more details and contact Shane Baker at irishcurls15@yahoo.com if you have any questions.

*** MEN'S RETREAT**

The Men's Retreat is an annual event open to all men of the church. The retreat is designed to provide opportunities for fun, games, food, relaxation, film viewing and discussion, and informal conversation as well as a formal program that varies from year to year. The retreat is typically held in March at the NIU Lorado Taft campus along the Rock River in Oregon.

RAMBLERS

For twenty-four years, a group of intrepid individuals has scheduled a monthly walk—usually after church, but occasionally on a Saturday—in a beautiful park or conservation area. We walk at a relaxed pace, for about an hour to an hour and a half. We enjoy birds, wildflowers, and each other's company. As Francie Barnes says, "We try not to get lost!" Come with us! We announce each Ramble in *Kairos* and would be happy to have you join us.

ROLLERS

The Rollers are bicyclists of all ages and abilities who gather on one Sunday a month for a ride in the greater Rockford area. Rollers are welcome to ride at their own speed and to go as far as they care to. Dates of rides are announced in *Kairos* and you can contact Holly Hanson at (815) 985-3652 or Eric van Est (815) 985-9049 with any questions.

UNICANTORS

The Unicators are the choir at The Unitarian Universalist Church. They sing each Sunday at either the 8:45 a.m. or 11 a.m. service. The first rehearsal of the year will be on Thursday, September 8, in the Hotchkiss Choir Room. All persons interested in singing with the Unicators this year are encouraged to attend this rehearsal. Rehearsals are held every Thursday at 7 p.m. and newcomers are welcome to join anytime.

ADULT PROGRAMS 2011-2012



The Unitarian Universalist Church Rockford, Illinois

Guided by reason and sustained by love, we are a liberal religious community inspiring people to transform our world.

Welcome to Adult Programs at the Unitarian Universalist Church

We have groups and activities for anyone-based on interests, identity, and life stage. Whoever you are, there is a way for you to be involved in the greater church community. Many of the groups and events listed allow for you to drop in as your schedule allows. For those marked with an asterisk, we ask that you register in advance by signing up at Sunday worship, calling the church office at 815-398-6322, or emailing office@uurockfor.org

Connect

CHALICE CIRCLES

Chalice Circles are a new program based on an old idea. Chalice Circles consist of eight to twelve people who gather every other week for seven sessions to discuss spiritual questions, share their lives with one another, and make strong connections. Each group is led by a facilitator who is trained and supported by the minister. The two-hour sessions will take place at the church. Your commitment to the group lasts only for the seven-session semester.

* **Tuesday Morning Chalice Circle**

Facilitated by Neita Webster

Meets September 20, October 4 & 18, November 1, 15, and 29, and December 13 from 10-11:30 a.m.

* **Thursday Afternoon Chalice Circle**

Facilitated by Wanda Hoover

Meets September 22, October 6 & 20, November 3 & 17, December 1 & 15 from 3-4:30 p.m.

* **An Additional Chalice Circle**

Facilitated by Shane Baker & Chris Dunn

Will announce its meeting dates in an upcoming issue of *Kairos*.

COVENANT GROUPS

We also have a long-standing covenant group program. These groups, also of 8-12 people, have been meeting for many years. There are not currently openings in covenant groups, and we encourage new folks to join a chalice circle.

THEOLOGY ON TAP

Twenty and thirty-somethings are invited to gather and talk about topics of faith and current issues in a fun and low-key place with the beverage of their choice. They typically meet every other Monday night. Watch *Kairos* for more upcoming dates and contact Ross Ticknor at ross.ticknor@gmail.com if you have questions.

MOM'S GROUP

The UU Moms group will meet at the Unitarian Universalist Church every 2nd and 4th Friday of the month from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Please join us for fun and friendship as we share our joys and challenges of motherhood. We are open to mothers of children of all ages and for any women who are in a mothering role. There is childcare available for a small donation of \$1-\$2 per child. Please contact Susan Dunn at stren@hotmail.com for more information.

MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Group gathers for conversation and fellowship. For more information, contact Spitty Tata at 815-637-4483.

* **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

Since 1983 Food for Thought (formerly V.S.P.) has offered opportunities for adult UU church members, friends of the church, and guests to socialize, enjoy a complete lunch, and engage in a thirty to forty minute program on a variety of interesting topics. Food for Thought gathers on the first Friday of every month at noon. Cost is \$7. Contact Shari Smallwood at 815-395-8663 or Barbara Smith at 815-282-9453 for more information.

Learn

*This year, we offer two tracks for the **Sunday School for Grown-Ups** program, which takes place on Sunday mornings between services (10 am – 10:45 am). One track (the world religions track) will meet only on Sundays when the choir rehearses for the early service, so choir members can participate if they wish. The other track (*Artist's Way*) is on the other Sundays. Adults who also volunteer in the Religious Education program for children can thus line up their teaching (every other week) so they can also participate in one or the other track.*

Sunday School for Grown Ups: World Religions Track

Both classes are facilitated by the Rev. Dr. Matthew Johnson-Doyle

* **Taoism.** An exploration of the ancient path of Taoism. We'll explore the central teachings of philosophical Taoism through the Tao Te Ching, a beautiful and inspiring text of spiritual and life-wisdom. Sept. 18, Oct. 2, Oct. 16, Nov. 6, Nov 20, Dec. 18.

* **Islam.** The world's second largest religion, and one of the least understood. This is an introduction to the context, practice, beliefs, poetry, and diversity of the Islamic tradition. Feb 19, Mar 4, Mar 18, April 1, April 15, and May 6.

Sunday School for Grown Ups: Artist's Way Track

Facilitated by Sue and Skip Abare

* ***The Artist's Way*** is a 12-session program, popular around the world, which helps people discover and cultivate their artistic, creative, and spiritual selves. Exact dates are TBA, but it will generally be the 2 & 4th Sunday, and it will begin on Sept. 25th. A \$35 fee covers the costs of the book, workbook, and journal.

* **GREAT DECISIONS**

Great Decisions is a discussion group about current topics in U.S. foreign policy held during an eight-week period beginning in late February. Each meeting consists of viewing a half-hour DVD on a specific topic, followed by discussion based on the DVD, readings in a briefing book, and related materials. The cost is \$20 per person. Dates will be announced in *Kairos* and on the church website (www.uurockford.org).

Do

ADOPT-A-ROAD

We meet at the NiCor parking lot near the corner of Linden and Alpine Roads.

Our stretch of road is on Linden from Alpine to the eastern most part of the I-39 overpass. Following our search for trash, and the occasional treasure, we adjourn

for breakfast and UU camaraderie at the Five Coins Restaurant on Sandy Hollow Rd. Do join us—many hands make for light work. Check *Kairos* for dates. Contact Allen and Ruth Penticoff, Adopt-a-Road Coordinators, at 815-874-9604.

INDIA HOUSE LUNCH BUNCH

A group of UUs and friends meets each Tuesday at noon at the India House Restaurant (6430 E. Riverside Blvd. Loves Park, IL 61111). There is great food and conversation. Anyone is welcome and no reservation is necessary.

GOLF GROUP

The Golf Group gathers for occasional rounds of golf and a good meal either before or after we hit the links. Our outings are announced in *Kairos*. If you have any questions, please contact Bob Arevalo at arevalo@t6b.com