

Kairos

December 7, 2011 Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church



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

December 11, 2011

8:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

What do you Love More than Love?

The Rev. Dr. Matthew Johnson-Doyle

The question that makes the title of this message is asked by the singer/songwriter Dar Williams in her Buddhist-inspired song of the same title. If you ever feel like “love” isn’t enough, or is too much, or doesn’t answer your question, or is too complicated, then this is for you. If you wonder what “avoiding attachments,” as the Buddha instructs, means for what we care about, then this is for you, too.

December 18, 2011

8:45 a.m. (Choir) & 11:00 a.m.

Long Night/Cold Day

The Rev. Dr. Matthew Johnson-Doyle

As we approach the winter solstice and the longest night of the year, it is good to reflect in word and music on the lessons of winter. What do the cycles of the year teach us about our own cycles and needs?

Sunday Helpers

December 11, 2011, 8:45 a.m.

Ushers..... Barb & Pam Wilson
Greeters..... Ann & Bob Bowling
Coffee..... Skip & Sue Abare
Guest Table.. Wendy Bennett & **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**
Children’s Community Time.... **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**
Worship Associate..... Jon McGinty
Sound Tech..... Bob Arevalo

Sunday Helpers

December 17, 2011, 8:45 a.m.

Ushers..... Dick & Myrna Lake
Greeter..... Debra Harmon
Coffee..... Avery & Luke Harmon
Guest Table..... Lynn Liston & Ruth Little
Children’s Community Time.... **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**
Worship Associate..... Paul Goddard
Sound Tech..... Leah Krippner

Sunday Helpers

December 11, 2011, 11:00 a.m.

Ushers..... **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**
Greeter..... Susan Dunn
Coffee..... Monique Abernathy
Guest Table..... Judy Johnson & Pam Lonsway
Children’s Community Time..... Shannon Doyle
Worship Associate..... Jon McGinty
Sound Tech..... Bob Arevalo

Sunday Helpers

December 17, 2011, 11:00 a.m.

Usher..... Misha Lentz
Greeter..... Kadison Lentz
Coffee..... Phil Hjemboe
Guest Table..... Dean & Pat Tollefsrud
Children’s Community Time..... Troy Brown
Worship Associate..... Paul Goddard
Sound Tech..... Leah Krippner

Church Family News

Traver Cairn Lonsway was born on October 22, 2011. He weighed just over ten pounds. Parents Peter and Audrey Lonsway and 21-month old brother Ridge are all adjusting well. Grandparents **Pam and Pete Lonsway** got to spend three weeks in Virginia before and after the arrival of Traver. The parents are normally sleep deprived and the rest of the group had lots of fun together. Amanda gets to see her new nephew at Christmas time.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to: **Sydney Crook** (who turns 7 on 12/13), **Anna Ralston** (12/13), **David Black** (12/15), **Mike Ullrich** (12/16), **Leslie Mills** (12/16), **JoAnn Shaheen** (12/17), **Theresa Parrish** (12/18), **Richard Schultz** (who turns 11 on 12/18), **Ruby Magnuson** (12/19), **Nick Korneski** (12/19), and **Misha Lentz** (12/21)!

Did you wear a **blue fleece jacket** to church on Sunday, December 4? Did you wear the correct blue fleece jacket home? If not, please give the office a call at 815-398-6322 and Jamie can hopefully reunite you with your jacket.

Church Meetings and Events

ANTI-RACISM, ANTI-OPPRESSION, MULTICULTURALISM SURVEY

We are still seeking responses to our survey questions. If you have not turned in your survey yet, you now have the opportunity to complete the survey quickly and easily online. Please visit <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/8LCM6XN> and share your thoughts with us. Thanks for your input!



THE GIVING TREE

The 3-5th grade students are focusing on how Love Connects us all this year in religious education class. They are putting their *Faith in Action* by creating a giving tree that will be in the Narthex next week and through the holiday season. Our giving tree will be decorating with ornaments; each ornament will have an item listed on the back. All the items are things that are needed by Homeless Clothes Closet & Rockford's MELD (Mothers and Dads Establishing Life's Direction). If you wish to contribute to the Giving Tree you can take an ornament off the tree and purchase the item listed. If you choose a book or toy, please wrap the item. All others can be left unwrapped. When you return to church place your item under the tree and we will make sure it gets to the homeless families in Rockford. **PLEASE RETURN ALL GIFTS BY DECEMBER 20.** Thank you for your generosity!



WELCOMING A GUEST AT YOUR TABLE

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) was founded in 1939 to help women, men and children escape Nazi tyranny in Europe. The work of the UUSC continues to be motivated by the conviction that all people are entitled to basic human rights. Over the past half century, the UUSC has put this belief into action in more than 50 countries.

Today, the UUSC continues to confront injustice by combining human rights education and advocacy in the United States with direct support for grassroots initiatives in Latin American, Asia, Africa, and the U.S. [See the article below regarding UUSC's upcoming service trips to Haiti].

The UUSC's major fundraiser is the "Guest at Your Table" Boxes which encourage Unitarian Universalists to make a small donation at each meal this holiday season. Boxes were distributed at the end of the music service and should be returned to Church after New Years. If you didn't get one, they will continue to be available at the Church office.

I would also like to encourage you to join the UUSC, by filling out the form on the back of the Guest at Your Table Box.

You can get your Guest at Your Table boxes here in the Narthex and Religious Education area of our church. Guest at Your Table boxes are due back at the church on Jan. 8, 2012.

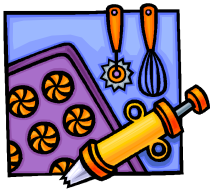
RAMBLERS

On December 11th after the second service we will meet at the Culver's on East State St., near Saint Anthony's Hospital to plan next year's Rambles. No need for a brown bag lunch, our U/U youth are working to raise big bucks for their Boston trip that very same afternoon at that very same Culver's, so it's a 2-fer-1! Bring maps and all your wonderful new ideas to inspire the group.

Francie Barnes

SCOOPIE DAY DEC. 11

The youth would like to give you a good reason to eat out on Sunday, Dec. 11 at Culver's from 12-3pm. Culver's has generously offered to give our youth 10% of all sales from that time period from guests who bring their Scoopie Coupons. These funds will be used to pay for the coming of age Boston trip. Look for your coupon in the worship program that Sunday.



COOKIES PLEASE . . .

Planning to bake cookies this holiday season? Consider sharing a few with church members and friends who are unable to get out and about.

Each December, we prepare and deliver plates of cookies to homebound members of our church family. This year, we will meet at church on Monday, December 12, 1:30 pm to prepare the cookie plates. We're looking for people who can donate one or two dozen cookies for this activity. You can bring your cookies to church on Sunday, December 11, or before 1:30 pm on Monday, December 12.

Also, if you would like to help assemble the plates and/or deliver one of them, please let Jan Dunham know by e-mail (jdunham@T6B.com) or by phone or text (815-520-7477).

Thank you so much for making the holidays a little brighter for our homebound friends.
The Caring Team Members

GET YOUR HOLIDAY COOKIES ON DEC. 18!

Wondering where you were going to get delicious holiday cookies to share and give to your family and friends? The Boston Bound youth and parents are here to help with a holiday bake sale after Sunday service on Dec. 18. So bring your appetite and we will bring the cookies!

AN INVITATION FROM THE ROCKTON UU CHURCH

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rock Valley invites the members of the Rockford congregation to join them in a Winter Solstice service at their church at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 22. Their church is located in the Old Stephen Mack School House at 329 School St. at IL Route 75 in Rockton. For information call Margaret Curttright, UUCRV president, at 815-624-7192.



WINTER WOMENSPIRIT-2012

Heart Pulse: The Sacred Journey into Sound with Keynote Speaker: Ragani

February 3-5, 2012: Explore your self through the myriad of workshops available Saturday and immerse your self into the Heart Pulse. Ragani plans to share with us over the weekend. Shop your favorite vendors and find a few new favorites, as well! Share a hotel room with a friend, or meet a fellow UU through home hospitality. The options available are truly endless as the women of the Central Midwest District come together for another year of personal enrichment, sisterhood, and fun! Register online at <http://www.regonline.com/Register/Checkin.aspx?EventID=1016651>

HOME HOSPITALITY

The Unitarian Universalist churches of Rockford and Rockton are coordinating the Winter WomenSpirit Conference, February 3-5, 2012. The coordinators are looking for home hospitality hosts for individual women on Friday and Saturday evening (February 3 & 4). Call Judy Pickle (815-399-8365) or Jan Henningsen (815-397-4721) if you can provide a place to stay for a conference attendee.

UUA BOOKSTORE GREETINGS!

This week is your last chance to receive **free standard shipping*** on all U.S. orders placed in the UUA Bookstore. This great money-saver ends at 5:00 p.m. EST on Friday, December 9th. This is a great time to save money while supporting your denomination! Remember, we've got a wide selection of books, jewelry, and other gift items sure to satisfy everybody on your holiday list, so check out our [Holiday Gift Guide](#) for more great suggestions - we're adding items daily! Here's wishing you and yours a safe, warm, and happy Winter Holiday season.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SERVICE COMMITTEE TRIPS

Come see for yourself and help us continue this critical work — [apply to join us on a spring 2012 trip to Haiti!](#) These service-learning trips not only make a positive impact in Haiti but are transformational for volunteers. If you, or someone you know, would like to travel to Haiti with UUSC's JustWorks Program, **we have trips coming up March 10-17, 2012 (application deadline: December 18, 2011), and April 28-May 5, 2012 (application deadline: February 5, 2012).** Fill out our [online application](#) at <http://www.uusc.org/justworks> or call Sam Jones, who handles enrollment for JustWorks, at 617-301-4326 between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. (EST) to apply by phone. Hope to see you in Haiti!



Matthew's Memo

Last spring I read Stephan Prothero's *God is Not One* and was provoked. Among other claims, Prothero argues that each religion identifies a "problem" in the human condition, a "solution" or goal to solve that problem, a technique to arrive at that solution and an

exemplar (or exemplars) to follow. Thus, while Christianity says the problem is sin, Confucians identify it as chaos and Judaism as exile. Of course, I wondered, what would this be for us Unitarian Universalists? I'm looking forward to presenting my version of the problem, the goal, the technique and the exemplars of our own world religion in a sermon series that will begin on Jan. 8th and continue through Jan. 29th.

These four Sundays, then, would be a great time to invite someone to church. Maybe you have a relative, neighbor, friend, or co-worker who has expressed some interest in our faith. This is the time for them to come. Maybe you are friends with someone who used to be a member of this church; invite them to return. We are doing good worship, good ministry, and good community on Sunday and we want to share that with more people. The most effective way to invite people to church is to actually invite them – a personal invitation, an "I'll meet you there and we can sit together," – this is what works.

Speaking of things that begin on January 8th, the board has endorsed the staff's plan to alter our Sunday morning schedule, beginning on the 8th. 18 months ago, we put Sunday School between services with the hope that parents would attend both Sunday School and Worship. Few do. Our evaluations and consultations led us to say, let's try something different. **Beginning Jan 8th, the Sunday Morning Schedule will be as follows:**

Worship Service – 9:15 AM

Sunday School – 9:30 AM until 10:30 AM

Coffee Hour – 10:15 – 11:00 AM

Worship Service – 11:00 AM

Coffee Hour -- 12:00 PM

Children will begin in worship at 9:15 and then depart for classes; some families may choose to arrive by 9:30 and stay for worship at 11:00. This new schedule will have many advantages, including a later start time for the early service, a more compact and hopefully vibrant coffee hour, more time for the RE classes, more worship participation by parents and children and a slightly smaller volunteer load. I will no longer be able to teach adult RE between services, but I was finding that exhausting as is. There may still be adult RE from 9:30-10:30 for those who want to attend a discussion group or class before coming to the 11:00 service, but it will be led by others.

If you have any questions about this, please see me or Kimberlee. We are both excited about this change and how we think it will strengthen our ministry with children and youth. The feedback from parents has been very positive, so we hope this will work well.

In faith, Matthew ☺



¡Felicidades!

I was pleased to see such a great turnout for our December Music Sunday. The energy in the sanctuary was wonderful, especially during the congregational singing. With its new speakers, the organ was back to normal, providing a strong foundation for all the beautiful voices. What a great morning!

Many of you told me how much you enjoyed our celebration of Christmas in Latin America through music and story. Along with all our guest musicians and soloists, the Unicantors unsurprisingly did a great job navigating not only the musical elements, but also the challenge provided by singing in Spanish – occasionally at breakneck speed! Music is such an important part of the worship experience and culture of our church, in large part because of the fine tradition of musical excellence established by my predecessor, Kay Hotchkiss. In spite of all the hard work needed to make Music Sundays happen, I am grateful that each program year we set aside two worship services in which music figures prominently. I am equally grateful for your support of music in our church not only on Music Sundays, but throughout the church year.

This December's Music Sunday was a success in part due to the efforts of Gale Ketteler, who not only sang beautifully as our resident soprano soloist, but who also wrote press releases and contacted local organizations to promote the event. I have no doubt that her efforts account for the television coverage we received, as well as for the presence of a number of visitors who joined us last Sunday. I appreciate Gale's leadership of the Music Committee and all the things that she does to promote and support our music program.

I also appreciate Nancy Eliseo for her unflagging support of music in our church. All of the extra expenses incurred in presenting music in worship last Sunday were underwritten by Nancy through the Thomas Eliseo fund. And of course, the lovely reception after the service was a gift from Nancy to all of us. I have no doubt that our many visitors felt especially welcomed because of Nancy's hospitality and delicious treats. Thank you, Nancy!

Finally, I want to acknowledge the vocal sextet serving as the combo that accompanied Gale's solo at the beginning of the service last Sunday with their "pom-pom-pom," "plim-plim-plim," "tac-a-tac," and "cha-cu-ru-cha-cu" rhythms: Sandi Campbell, Kathy Scarpaci, Joe Sweeney, Duane Wilke, Pat Littlejohn, and Paul Runestad. I also want to thank Dave Lantz, Joe Sweeney, and Duane Wilke for their fine solo work last Sunday as well.

This was my sixteenth Music Sunday with you all (if we count the Lauridsen pieces presented last June as a Music Sunday). Sometimes I shake my head and wonder how that can be. Mostly, however, I just count my blessings.

Paz,

Tim

New Member Spotlight

Bob King
1440 Jackson St.
Rockford, IL 61107
(815) 566-1824



Bob King used to attend our church back in the 80's when his children were small. He started coming to church again early this year and said it felt "like coming home."

A native of Rockford, Bob and his wife Sheila have two adult daughters, Kelly and Lyndsay and an adult foster son, Ian. Bob has a degree in computer science from Rockford College. He began working in IT at Rosecrance in August of this year. His previous IT jobs included working for General Electric, Beloit Memorial Hospital and Physicians' Immediate Care. Bob said his gravitation toward the healthcare field was because "I like being a support person for people working to help others."

Describing himself as a "movie freak", Bob especially enjoys films and books in the science fiction and fantasy genres. As a matter of fact, it was his love of science fiction as a boy that brought him to question his Southern Baptist/Pentecostal roots. Bob said writers like Robert Heinlein were always forward looking and espoused strong roles for women that didn't seem to fit with evangelical beliefs.

Bob and his wife Sheila discovered the Rockford UU back in the early 80's when they were looking for a spiritual home for their young children. Bob said he appreciated how the church stressed openness and tolerance and was always on the "cutting edge" of issues such as gay rights. He said he still finds the church very "open and accepting" and that "It feels nice to be back."

Bob says community is very important to him. "We spend so much of lives alone. We need other people." In addition to finding a community within the church, Bob, currently

secretary of the Northern Illinois Pagan Alliance, hopes to build up ties between this church and the pagan alliance.

Submitted by Barb Wilson

COMMITTEES AND TEAMS!

A new regular feature in your *Kairos*. Please come join us in doing the shared ministry of our congregation. These are the "major" ones, there are many more sub-committees, task forces, and projects.

Team or Committee	Leaders	Next Meeting
Communications Team	Pam Wilson	12/11/11 @ 10 am
Worship Team	Jon McGinty & Linda Sandquist	12/11/11 @ 12:30 pm
Finance Committee	Susan Caravello	12/15/11 @ 4:30 pm
Building and Grounds	Dave Schubert	1/2/12 @ 7 pm
Social Justice Team	Wanda Hoover and TBA	1/23/12 @ 7 pm
Caring Team	Lynn Liston and Judy Johnson	2/12/12 @ 12:30 pm
Activities Team	WE NEED A NEW LEADER!	TBA
Religious Growth and Learning Team	Susan Fumo	TBA
Membership Team	Holly Hanson & Carolyn Arevalo	TBA
Leadership Development	Paul Goddard	TBA
Denominational Affairs	Teresa Wilmont	Does not have meetings
Committee on Ministry	Wendy Bennett	Meetings are not open



CLIP-AND-SAVE SCHEDULE



Dec 11th – Two services at 8:45 and 11.
Sunday school at 10.

Dec 18th – Two services at 8:45 and 11.
Sunday school at 10.

Saturday, Dec. 24th – Christmas Eve Service at
5pm.

Sunday, Dec. 25th – NO SERVICE.

Sunday, Jan. 1st -ONE service at 11 a.m., with a
“potluck breakfast” at 10:00 – bring something to
share!

Jan 8th –Our new schedule begins! Two services at
9:15 and 11. Sunday school at 9:30.

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

Kairos: The next issue of *Kairos* will be published on Wednesday, December 21. Please submit all articles for publication by noon on Monday, December 19. Articles can be submitted to kairos@uurockford.org.

Worship Attendance: December 4: 19 (8:45 a.m. service), **175** (11:00 a.m. service).

Community Bulletin Board

We know that the congregants of our church are involved in myriad community activities. We would love to highlight, in the Community Bulletin Board section of *Kairos*, upcoming events, meetings, and issues that are important to you. Please e-mail them to kairos@uurockford.org by regular Kairos deadlines. Notice the excellent examples below!

KATHY KELLY

This Friday, December 9, at 7pm

hosted at the

Unitarian Universalist Church

4848 Turner, Rockford IL

Peace activist, Kathy Kelly, believes non-violence involves simplicity, service, sharing of resources and non-violent direct action in resistance to war and oppression. She is founder and coordinator for Voices for Creative Nonviolence (www.vcnv.org), a campaign to end U.S. military and economic warfare. Her organization works with the Afghan Youth Peace Volunteers in search of non-military solutions to end the war.

Kathy has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize three times since 2000. Free and open to the public

For more info: 815-964-7111

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD



VEGETARIANS IN MOTION HOLIDAY POTLUCK & CONCERT

Gale Ketteler invites you to a holiday concert at Our Savior's Lutheran on Tuesday, December 13 at 7:30pm. This Vegetarians in Motion special program features a potluck at 6:30pm, followed by songs of the season performed by organist Ron Burmeister and soprano Gale Ketteler. Visit www.vimlife.org for more information. Admission to the potluck for non-members is \$5, plus a vegetarian dish to share. No charge for children. As a bonus this month, Charron and Frank Rausa of Papa Murphy's will serve appetizers of Veggie deLite and Gourmet Vegetarian Pizza. Come early!

The VIM Board has decided to allow free admission for those coming to the concert only, but we'd really love to have you join us for a healthy, delicious dinner at 6:30pm. As Stan Campbell says, "It's the *best* potluck in town!" Just bring a vegetarian dish that serves 8 people, plus your own plate, silverware, and cup. Please label dishes containing eggs and dairy products.

SUPPORT UNITING AMERICAN FAMILIES ACT

Dear Friends,
Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Congressman Jerrold Nadler (D-NY) have reintroduced the Uniting American Families Act (UAFa) — a critically important bill that would provide much-needed relief to gay and lesbian families facing separation and exile under our discriminatory immigration laws.

Will you help us build the support we need to ensure UAFa is a success?

Please click here — right now — to urge your elected leaders to cosponsor the Uniting American Families Act!
(link: <http://www.capwiz.com/immigrationequalityactionfund/home/>)

UAFa would allow lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) Americans to sponsor their foreign-born partners and children for residency in the United States. UAFa's passage would immediately help all families with foreign-born partners. For families whose relationships aren't recognized by state or local law — and for families currently living in exile — UAFa offers the only permanent solution for remaining together.

Tom Tierney
Outreach Consultant
Immigration Equality | Action Fund
Tel: 914.358.5364
ttierney@immigrationequality.org,
www.ImEqActionFund.org, www.ImmigrationEquality.org

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Office Hours

Monday—Thursday: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Saturday: Closed

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The *Kairos* is published bi-weekly. Articles are to be submitted by noon on the Monday before publication. Articles may be submitted by e-mailing your article to kairos@uurockford.org.

The Unitarian Universalist Church
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Church Calendar at a Glance

*(Please keep in mind that the calendar changes on a daily basis and does not show outside rentals.
To check on the availability of a date please check with the church office.)*

Thursday, December 8

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice, HCR

Friday, December 9

9:30 a.m. UU Mom's Group, CL

7 p.m. Kathy Kelly, Peace Activist, presentation, S

Sunday, December 11

8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Childcare, N

8:45 a.m. Worship Service, S

9:45 a.m. Social Hour, DH

10 a.m. Choir Practice, HCR

10 a.m. Church School

10 a.m. Communications Team Meeting, OWR

11 a.m. Worship Service, S

12:00 p.m. Social Hour, DH

12:00 p.m. Ramblers-Culver's off of East State

12:00-3 p.m. Scoopie Day Fundraiser at Culver's off of East State
(proceeds benefit youth Boston trip)

12:30 p.m. Worship Team Meeting

Monday, December 12

1:30 p.m. Caring Team Cooking Plate Assembly, CCR

Thursday, December 15

4:30 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting, CCR

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice, HCR

Sunday, December 18

8:00 a.m. Choir Practice, HCR

8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Childcare, N

8:45 a.m. Worship Service, S

9:45 a.m. Social Hour, DH

10 a.m. Church School

11 a.m. Worship Service, S

12:00 p.m. Social Hour, DH

Monday, December 19

12:00 p.m. Kairos deadline

Tuesday, December 20

Deadline to drop off MELD gifts

Wednesday, December 21

9 a.m. Kairos Crew, OWR

Thursday, December 22

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice, HCR

S=Sanctuary, C=Chapel, DH=Deale Hall, HCR=Hotchkiss Choir Room, CCR=Caskey Conference Room, OWR=Office Work Room, CL=Connolly Library, N=Narthex, YL=Youth Lounge, WY=Whitney Young Meeting Room(1), MFMR=Margaret Fuller Meeting Room; CB=Clara Barton Meeting Room(2), EMR=Emerson Meeting Room (21), TBD = To be determined

