

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbus, IN

UUCCI NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2024 ISSUE



A MONTH OF MUSIC

DECEMBER BRINGS A VARIETY OF
MUSICAL PERFORMANCES,
SERVICES, AND GUESTS.

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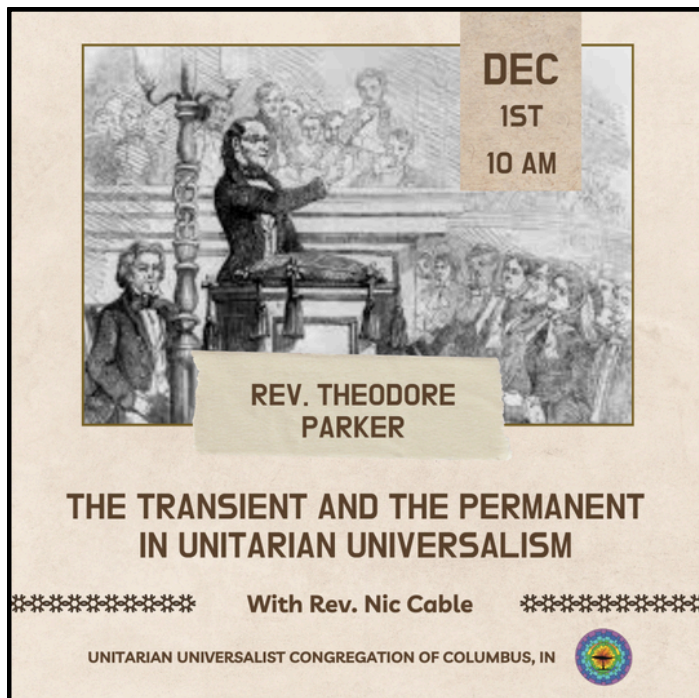
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SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday Mornings at 10 am



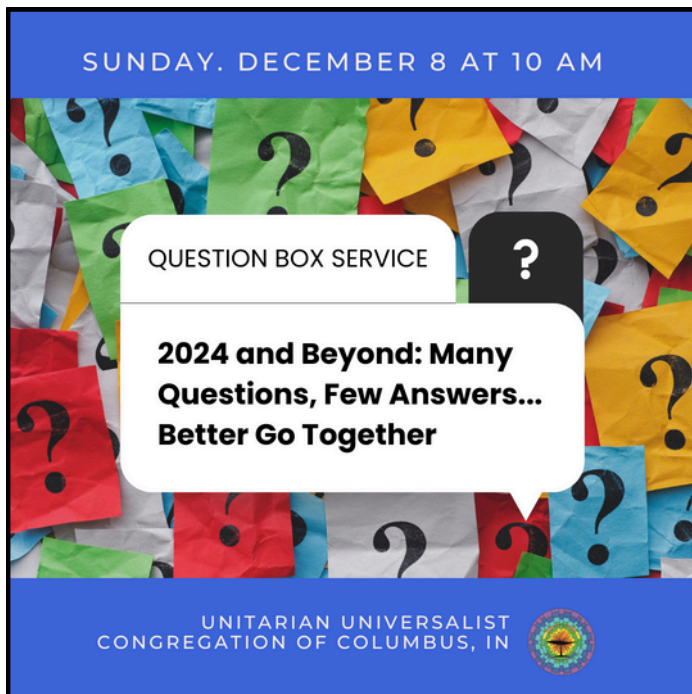
DEC
1ST
10 AM

REV. THEODORE PARKER

THE TRANSIENT AND THE PERMANENT
IN UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM

With Rev. Nic Cable

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF COLUMBUS, IN



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8 AT 10 AM

QUESTION BOX SERVICE

2024 and Beyond: Many Questions, Few Answers... Better Go Together

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF COLUMBUS, IN



And what happened then?
Well, in Whoville they say
that the Grinch's small
heart grew three sizes
that day!

-Dr. Seuss

**Where Are You Christmas?
Sunday, December 15th
10am**

Join us to remember the
importance of community and
belonging and the simple joys of
the holiday season in this service
for UUs of All Ages!



The best way to spread joy and cheer
is singing together for all to hear!
Voices of all ages and abilities
are invited to join us

**DECEMBER 22ND AT 10AM
HOLIDAY SINGALONG**

Sunday morning services are central to our community. We all begin service together and then children and youth are invited to attend classes after a shared story. Childcare is offered as well for infants through preschool and we also welcome and encourage children and youth to stay in service with their adults anytime they choose. Services typically last an hour and are followed by a social hour in Fellowship Hall, we hope you will join us for warm beverages, snacks, and connection!

An Invitation to Connect with Joy and Rest

Adrienne Summerlot, Children's Ministry Coordinator

As the year begins to wind down this can be both a joyful time and restful time, if those are the intentions we set. This requires us to be mindful, anchored in our values and staying in the present. We all have many roles both chosen and unchosen which often can trap us into unhealthy habits that leave us feeling exhausted, overwhelmed, and even depressed as we set ourselves up for failure because we prioritize everyone else's wants, needs, and expectations over what we need to take care of ourselves, to thrive. Since the pandemic, many of us have been merely surviving when we long to thrive. This seems a good time to revisit some important ideas as we lean into a busy time of year with lots of family gatherings. A framing that these times can carry a variety of complex emotions. Anticipation, excitement, anxiety, dread, loneliness, and grief. I want to normalize talking about these, to say to you that this is normal, that you are not alone, that you do not have to be perfect or your best self to show up here.

You are welcome here, you are loved, you are held in care in this community.

Tricia Hersey, author of *Rest is Resistance* writes: “**Treating each other and ourselves with care isn't a luxury, but an absolute necessity if we're going to thrive. Resting isn't an afterthought, but a basic part of being human.**” I have spoken about the impact of her work on my reframing around rest in my own mind, and it can feel like a lot of things that are challenging to unlearn, so I share this shorter bulleted list. Perhaps you can print it and put it on your fridge and come back to it as you find yourself able to engage with it. If you have more capacity, I encourage you to [listen or read this](#).

Rest is Care
Rest is Radical
Rest Fights Back Against Toxic Systems

Rest is a Divine Right
Resting Enables Healing

Poet Toi Derricotte opened the door to a radical idea with just one line in her poem, *The Telly Cycle*. **Joy is an act of resistance.** Years ago, Reverend Mary Ann Macklin imparted these wise words to the congregation I served. “Sometimes, we need to lower the bar for joy.” That was profound at the time. Could I? What would that look like? What might I need to let go of? Perfectionism, Pinterest ideals, and fairytale indoctrination just to name a few. Could I shift to see glimmers: like fireflies on a summer evening rather than expecting fireworks on 4th of July. I encourage you to think of some of these questions while also re-reading the statements about joy above. What brings you joy?

Can you find joy in simple things?
Have your ideas for joy changed over time?

Read more here: [Joy is an Act of Resistance: How Celebration Sustains Activism](#)
[By Ingrid Fetell Lee](#)

Joy is a propulsive force
Joy creates unity
Joy lets us reclaim our humanity
Joy disrupts expectations
Joy promotes resilience
Joy gives rise to hope

SPLINTERS

FROM THE BOARD

As we enter the final month of the year, it gives us a chance to reflect on all that has transpired at UUCCI in 2024 and offers an opportunity to be thankful for the work that many volunteers have done to create our vibrant religious community.

On November 3rd, we had a successful annual meeting. We approved a change to the bylaws which will remove the Ends (now called Strategic Objectives) out of the Bylaws. The Strategic Objectives will still be posted, publicized and otherwise made known to all, just not appear in the bylaws where it is not possible to make changes or updates except by congregational vote. The congregation approved the slate of new board members. David Windley and Liz Cleland will be Trustees and Mark Kevitt will be the next Vice President. I am so grateful to the outgoing board members, Linda Iwamuro, Adam Reuter, and Stephen Bernard. Our current Treasurer, Brandy Wills, is not going to be able to continue to serve in her position past the end of this year. We are very appreciative of Dick Boyce, who has agreed to serve as Treasurer for the next year. Brandy has done a great job and we thank her for her service to UUCCI as Treasurer. We are pleased to welcome our new board members and are excited about the collective energy going into 2025.

UUCCI and Hindu Society members recently gathered to dedicate the new pathway that bridges our two buildings. This will make it a much safer and easier path to walk between the two spaces on the Interfaith Campus.

The Hindu priests provided a lovely blessing followed by tea and cookies in the Hindu Temple. UUCCI Buildings and Grounds Team have been in conversation with HSSI to plan landscaping to enhance the area. You'll see changes there soon and new trees in the early spring.

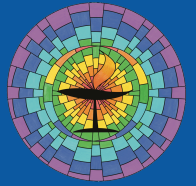
UUCCI will start to implement security upgrades inside and outside the building that will be funded by the Department of Homeland Security PPOW (Protecting Places of Worship) grant that we were awarded (\$100,000). We have two years to complete these projects.

The annual pledge drive is well underway. Our budget this year is about \$22,000 over last year. Much of the increase is due to the higher costs of utilities and insurance. Lots of pledges have come in but we need to have more of them to make sure we can cover our operating budget for 2025. Please turn in your pledge form for 2025 by December 15th. **[You can fill out a pledge here.](#)**

Thank you for your annual giving to UUCCI. Supporting the programs, services and events led by dedicated staff and volunteers right here in south central Indiana is an important act of generosity. I'm very happy to live in a small Midwestern city with a progressive liberal religious presence, and I bet you are too!

Carol Kostrzewsky
President, Board of Trustees

MUSIC AT UUCCI



A Hymnody Progress Report

By Louise Hillery

Hymn Talks have been meeting monthly since September. At each meeting, we listen to recordings of about four selected hymns, discuss bios of the author and composer, then share our opinions.

We consider the words:

- Are they clear and understandable, even for younger folks or newcomers to UU
- Do they create word pictures in your mind?
- Are they uplifting and inspiring?
- Do any words feel uncomfortable?
- What is the message of the hymn?

We consider the music. You don't need to be a musician to have opinions on this.

- What feeling does the music create?
- Does the feeling of the music match the feeling of the words?
- Are the tune and rhythm easy to catch onto?
- Is the tune easy to sing?

We give each hymn a score just to make things interesting. Our scores so far, out of 18 points possible:

- Blue Boat Home - 16
- Come, Come, Whoever You Are - 16
- How Could Anyone Ever Tell You - 16
- There's a River Flowing in My Soul -18
- We Are a Gentle Angry People - 15
- Spirit of Life - 12
- We'll Build a Land - 18
- Come Sing a Song with Me - 14

On December 8, we will discuss and evaluate #221 Light One Candle, #225 O Come Emmanuel, #231 Angels We Have Heard on High, and #251 Silent Night.

Anyone is welcome to join us for these one-hour Second Sunday discussions.

December

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY

Adrienne
Summerlot



Children's Ministry Coordinator
children@uucci.org

Seedling and Sprouts (infants-preschool) meet every Sunday in the Earth Room with our caregivers to meet new friends, share stories, sing, and play!

Undivided Isle Questers (Kindergarten-4th Grade): Together, we have escaped caves through listening, built bridges with equity and problem solving, and crossed over lakes and mountains and even an uncross-able river. We have found the third piece of our map and will be spending our last 2 classes of this year learning about responsibility and creating a covenant together. Join us for games, puzzles, and challenges that we work together to solve.



Our last two adventures lie ahead:

December 1st- Skull Rock

December 8th- Harmony Village



December 15th we will have All Ages Service retelling the story of **How the Grinch Stole Christmas**. Childcare will still be available for our youngest friends. See more information about the service and the pizza lunch and screening of the Ron Howard movie version we are hosting afterward in this newsletter.


December 22nd we will have another all ages service to help us connect with joy of this season as we lift up our voices for a **Holiday Sing Along**. Childcare will still be available for our youngest friends.

December 29th is still in the works but we are hoping to have an interactive service that holds space for us to reflect on this past year and dream about what 2025 may hold for us individually and collectively.

Raising Unitarian Universalists will meet on December 22nd after service! see more information in this newsletter!

We register children and youth annually for our programs at UUCCI so that we have the most accurate information to share information with parents/caregivers, ensure communication, and to provide support to those we serve. We appreciate you taking a moment to [REGISTER!](#)

5TH GRADE AND UP!

Questions?
Contact Sunny Currier
Youth Coordinator
youth@uucci.org

Our tweens and teens need their own space together to play games, explore spiritual and religious topics, cultivate fellowship and engage in social justice projects. Uuth meet regularly in their room, aka the library. When Uuth group doesn't meet they are always welcome to join kids in Roots and Wings or Makerspace. We are committed to fostering leadership opportunities for them.



We meet on Sunday mornings after the Wonderbox in the youth room for fun, friends, and fellowship!

December 8th is our last gathering for 2024

Please bring a wrapped gift to exchange in our gift game. The gift should be no more than \$10, and the themes of the gift this year is "something everyone needs." Please also bring a box of your favorite cereal to donate to a food pantry.



December 13th



Join us to help serve community in need!

Hot Meals

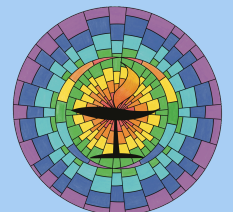
Fridays from 4-6pm at
 First Presbyterian

Sunday Services 10am

Youth are especially encouraged to attend these Sunday Morning services and/or be involved directly in helping play a part in them!

December 15th- All Ages Worship Service- The Grinch

December 22nd- All Ages Holiday Sing-A-Long



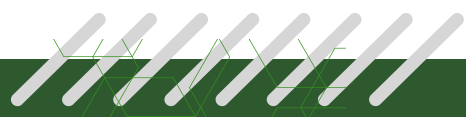


Join the Environmental Action Team!

THE GREEN CORNER

The Environmental Action Team has a wide variety of projects to get involved with, and many ways that you can help the Earth!

[Click here to download the Columbus SFA Program and Financial Overviews](#)



BUILDING AND GROUNDS TEAM CALL FOR PARTICIPATION!

The Building and Grounds team strives to make sure that our facilities are safe, functional, accessible and beautiful. We work with the staff to accommodate the needs of our various programs. We collaborate with our neighbors to make decisions that are mutually beneficial.

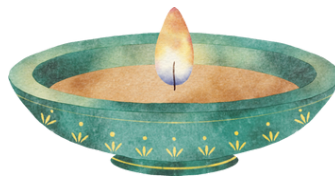
For more information contact



Donna Stanley
[\(dstan52@frontier.com\)](mailto:dstan52@frontier.com)



HELP UCCI LOOK AMAZING, AND SPEND SOME TIME WITH AMAZING PEOPLE!



Holiday Market



SHOPPING & SOUP LUNCH



December 7, 2024
Open 9am - 3 pm



**at Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Columbus, IN**
7850 W. Goeller Blvd. Columbus, IN

**ARTISAN
VENDORS**

**COOKIE
WALK**

**HOMEMADE
SOUPS**

**CHILDRENS
CRAFT ROOM**

**BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY
FOR FOOD, FUN, AND
FESTIVE GIFTS!**



THE GIFT OF THE NATIVITY



CHRISTMAS NATIVITY EXHIBIT

Explore the Beauty Experience the Joy Gather as a Community

DECEMBER 13-15, 2024

FRIDAY, DEC. 13TH: 5-8 PM

SATURDAY, DEC. 14TH: 3-8 PM

SUNDAY, DEC. 15TH: 3-8 PM

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
4850 WEST GOELLER BLVD.
COLUMBUS IN
NON-DENOMINATIONAL AND
NON-PROSELYTIZING EVENT



FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

OVER 200 UNIQUE AND BEAUTIFUL
CHRISTMAS NATIVITIES

SEASONAL MUSICAL PERFORMANCES
BY LOCAL COLUMBUS MUSICIANS

Find us at: [Bit.ly/GiftoftheNativity](https://bit.ly/GiftoftheNativity)



Yoga with Manju

at

Sri Ganesh Mandir

Embark on a journey of wellness & inner peace.

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Manjushree

Certified Level 2 | RYT 500 Yoga Instructor

5+ years teaching experience | Specializes in Hatha, Vinyasa, Ashtanga Yoga, Pranayama & more | Experienced in leading sessions across India, USA, UK & Singapore

Scan QR Code above to sign-up!

Every Saturday | Starting 21st Sept
8am - 9am
Sri Ganesh Mandir, Columbus, IN

Special Events this Month for All Ages

We welcome newcomers, visitors, and friends to join us for some winter holiday community events. Please know that you do not have to have a young child to attend. We are actively working here at UUCCI to build connections across generations and foster joy and relationships.

You can find these events on our Facebook Page as well and invite your friends!



**Ornament Making and
Cookie Decorating Party**
Sunday December 8th 11:30am- 1:00pm
Fellowship Hall & Makerspace



The image shows a collage of holiday-themed items. At the top, there are three examples of handmade ornaments: one with pine needles and berries, one with a rainbow ribbon, and one shaped like a snowman. Below the text is a row of various gingerbread cookies decorated with icing patterns, including a mitten, a tree, and a star.



**Join us
Sunday
December 15th**

11:30am Pizza Lunch in Fellowship Hall
suggested \$1/slice

12pm Movie Showing in the Sanctuary
bring pillows and blankets!

The image features a movie poster for 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas' showing the Grinch and Max the dog. Below the poster are illustrations of a red and white popcorn bucket, a clapperboard, and a film reel.



**Winter Solstice
Celebration!**
December 21st @ 5 pm

At Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Columbus, IN
Hosted by Tree of Knowledge Community Coven & UUCCI

The banner has a white wood-grain background with green pine branches and white snowflake cutouts on the sides. The text is in a green, cursive font for the title and a bold, sans-serif font for the date and location.

UUCCI PROGRAMS

DECEMBER 2024

Pastoral Care Team Meeting

Wednesday, November 6 at 2 pm

Our Pastoral Care Team helps us to stay connected with the members of our congregation. If you would like to share a special announcement, birthday, a joy, or a sorrow in our Friday Reminder email, please reach out to Marcia Walker at mwalker@epowerc.net

Choir Practice

Wednesday, December 4 at 7 pm

New voices are always welcome. The UUCCI Choir rehearses 2-3 evenings a month and performs one Sunday morning a month. Contact Louise at music@uucci.org.

Sunday Services Meeting

Friday, December 6 at 10:30 am

The Sunday Service Team organizes meaningful services for our congregation each week.

Holiday Market

Saturday, December 7 from 9 am - 3 pm

Our UU Holiday Market is fast approaching! The event will feature a sweet treat breakfast, homemade soup and dessert lunch, a cookie walk, a children's makerspace for holiday gifts, and artisan and non-profit vendors.

Hymnody discussions

Sunday, December 8 at 11:30 am

Hymn Talks explores and debates our favorite or not-so-favorite hymns in one-hour Sunday discussion sessions. Contact Louise at music@uucci.org. Childcare provided!

Cookie and Ornament Decorating

Sunday, December 8 at 11:30 am

Friends of all ages are invited to join Adrienne Summerlot for cookies, crafts, and fun in the Fellowship Hall!

Choir Practice

Wednesday, December 11 at 7 pm

New voices are always welcome. The UUCCI Choir rehearses 2-3 evenings a month and performs one Sunday morning a month. Contact Louise at music@uucci.org.

Chalice Circle

Thursday, December 12 at 10 am

Chalice Circles are facilitated, small group gatherings, which meet once a month at UUCCI. The gatherings foster conversation on Monthly Themes and build community in a small setting. Please contact Sharon Mangas for more info at docmangas@comcast.net

December Hot Meals

Friday, December 13 at First Presbyterian

Friday, December 13 is our UU team's Hot Meal date. Meal Service is from 4:30-5:30. Anyone who would like to help, contact Cathy Caldie.

Grinch Movie Party

Sunday, December 15 at 11:30 am

We will have All Ages Service retelling the story of How the Grinch Stole Christmas. Childcare will still be available for our youngest friends. See more information about the service and the pizza lunch and screening of the Ron Howard movie version we are hosting afterward in this newsletter.

UUCCI PROGRAMS

DECEMBER 2024

Winter Solstice Celebration

Saturday, December 21 at 5 pm

Each year, UUCCI partners with Tree of Knowledge Coven to host a Solstice Celebration for all ages. Winter Solstice Celebrations include a "feast hour" at 5 pm (while we talk, laugh, eat, and wait for everyone who is running late), followed by an optional ritual at 6 pm. One of our favorite traditions is crowning an Oak King and Holly King as our younger guests put together a play for the adults. For each holiday gathering, Tree of Knowledge takes up a collection of donations for a local cause. For the Winter Solstice, we decorate the "mitten tree" with hats, scarves, mittens, etc. Depending on the weather, we may also go for a lantern walk ending with cocoa around the fire circle. Remember to bring warm clothes, a dish to share, and a mitten tree donation.

Raising Unitarian Universalists (RUUs)

Sunday, December 22nd at 11:30 am

Take care of you! Explore spiritual practices and find something that feeds you amidst this busy season. Crafting in the Makerspace, meditation and movement space in the sanctuary, walk the labyrinth, enjoy a cookie and conversation in the library, or invitations in the Elsie Weekly Room.

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

Tuesday, December 24th at 5 pm

This special service will be in the evening, followed by nut-free snacks and fun activities.

END OF YEAR REMINDERS

Mitten Tree is Back!

Our fellowship hall has a beautiful tree that is ready to be decorated. We will collect new or gently used mittens, gloves, scarves, hats, and warm socks for all ages. The collected items will be donated to Turning Point just after the New Year.

Staff Week Off:

The UUCCI staff will be taking a week off from December 26th to January 1st, and will not be in their offices during this time. If there is an emergency, staff can be reached by cell phone. Please have any emails, information about events, or publication submissions sent to them by December 20th. Thank you, and Happy Holidays!

Pledge Drive:

Thank you all for your generosity and support for the coming year! If you can, please have your pledge submitted by December 20th. If you would like to submit yours online, [you can click this link](#)

Health Reminder:

Flu season is here. Remember that masks are welcome but optional. Please help us to protect each other by staying home if you're not feeling well. Services are available on Zoom and Youtube for those at home.

COLUMBUS INTERFAITH

EVENTS AT UUCCI INTERFAITH CAMPUS



Interfaith Community Dinner and Care
Wednesday, December 11
6 pm - Pitch In Dinner
7-8:30 pm - Safety and Security Discussion

After the wonderful impact that our last interfaith dinner had, we have decided to come together each month and share a meal together before discussing the concerns and goals of our communities.

For December, our discussion topic is safety and security for our diverse communities. Many faith communities are concerned about the recent increase in activity from hate-based groups locally and nationally. This is an opportunity to share thoughts from our communities, educational resources, and support for each other. Please bring any questions, resources, or ideas that you would like to share on this topic. Please bring a side dish to share (no nuts or sesame) and any members of your community who would like to join us.



Winter Solstice Celebration
Saturday, December 21 at 5 pm

Each year, UUCCI partners with Tree of Knowledge Coven to host a Solstice Celebration for all ages. Winter Solstice Celebrations include a "feast hour" at 5 pm (while we talk, laugh, eat, and wait for everyone who is running late), followed by an optional ritual at 6 pm. One of our favorite traditions is crowning an Oak King and Holly King as our younger guests put together a play for the adults. For each holiday gathering, Tree of Knowledge takes up a collection of donations for a local cause. For the Winter Solstice, we decorate the "mitten tree" with hats, scarves, mittens, etc. Depending on the weather, we may also go for a lantern walk ending with cocoa around the fire circle. Remember to bring warm clothes, a dish to share, and a mitten tree donation.

