



# CUC VOICE



March 6, 2009

*A Publication of the Congregational Unitarian Church*

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## **WINTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE – 10:45 A.M.**

### **Sunday March 8th – “FEELING GOOD”**

How can you overcome the pull of gloom that covers our nation and has seeped into our personal lives. How can we feel good again? Rev. Sandra Lott, one of our new members, and Dan will speak from their own points of view.

### **Sunday, March 15th –ST. PATRICK’S DAY CELEBRATION & “AN OLD FASHIONED GOD”**

Tom Steffens, Mike Knauf, and the Choir will regale us with lots of Irish music and Dan will speak about whether or not there is room in our lives for an old-fashioned, personal, God.

### **Sunday March 22nd – “HOPING FOR THE BEST”**

Is it possible that things really will get better. Is there any reason for hope in our lives. Dan will speak.

### **Sunday March 29th – “WE’RE LOOKING FOR IDEAS”**

We really are... your ideas... what you are thinking about and 3 or 4 members who will speak along with Dan about your ideas. Give us your thoughts. Tom and the Choir will also sing.

## **OFFICE SCHEDULE**

With the personnel changes taking place in the office, we wanted to give you a detailed schedule of who’s going to be in the office when, starting with the week of March 9th. Steven is currently on a leave of absence but will return by March 25th. He is at the church on a limited basis until then.

Monday, March 9: 10:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. Gail Wells

Tuesday, March 10: all day – Janet Burns

Wednesday, March 11: 10:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. – Lora Cantele

Thursday, March 12: 10:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. – Lora Cantele

Friday, March 13: 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. – Karen Stowe

Monday, March 16: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. – Gail Wells

Tuesday, March 17: all day – Janet Burns

Wednesday, March 18 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. – Gail Wells

Thursday, March 19: 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. – Karen Stowe

Friday, March 20: 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. – Karen Stowe

## **SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

We are still in need of volunteers for coffee, treats, and flowers for the rest of March. Please take a moment to sign up on the sheets on the bulletin board in the Social Room the next time you are in church. It's easy and very much appreciated by all.

## **PLEDGE DRIVE**

This past Sunday, Kaz Kazlusky introduced the pledge drive and Tom Steffens spoke of the music program at the church. Each week between now and the Congregational meeting May 3rd, members of our Church will talk about programs that we offer. Sometime later in March you will receive a pledge letter asking you to state your contribution to the church for the 12 month period beginning July 1st, 2009.

## **CHURCH BUSINESS COMING UP**

We are preparing now for the Congregational Meeting in May where we will nominate and elect church officers, approve a budget, and announce the final results of our pledge drive. We are interested in your ideas for possible church officers, for any changes in the budget, and for an approach in the pledge drive. Please contact Steven in the church office if you have any thoughts.

## **SMALL GROUP MEETINGS**

We now have several small groups that meet for the purpose of spiritual, intellectual, and personal learning. You are invited to any of these groups. If you are interested, contact the church office and we will put you in touch with the coordinator.

The Spiritual Practices group meets every other Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. in the parsonage. Our next meeting is Monday, March 16th. Each week our members share their own spiritual approach to life.

The Spiritual Reading group does not meet on a regular schedule, but meets approximately every month at 7:00 p.m. in the parsonage. Our next meeting is Wednesday, March 18th. We are reading "Three Cups of Tea" by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin. If you want to attend, please begin reading the book before you come.

"Small Group #1" meets on the first Tuesday of every month at the homes of its members. These meetings have an open agenda and often end up talking about personal things.

The Adult Discussion Group (formerly the Sunday Morning Adult RE class) meets most Sundays at 9:30 a.m. (this is a change in time – please note!) in the parsonage. There is a separate article about their activities for the next several weeks.

Our "A Course in Miracles" group meets Sundays at 9:00 a.m. in the parsonage. The curriculum is handed out before each session, so there's no textbook to buy. All are welcome!

## **ADULT DISCUSSION GROUP NEWS**

The Sunday morning Adult RE Class has changed its name to the Adult Discussion Group, and also changed its starting time to 9:30 a.m. on Sundays! Please be sure you note these changes in your calendar so you're not waiting for a while. The Group still meets upstairs in the parsonage.

On March 8, the Adult Discussion Group will begin a five-week run with the Voluntary Simplicity Course. Regular discussion topics will resume on April 12. Please note description below.

## **VOLUNTARY SIMPLICITY COURSE**

On Sunday, March 8 we'll start the five session course over five consecutive Sundays before the service. The course will be limited to a maximum of 12 participants and the cost of materials is \$20.00. For more information please contact Margaret Fox-Hawthorne at 815-943-6828 or [margfh2000@yahoo.com](mailto:margfh2000@yahoo.com).

## **LAW OF ATTRACTION SUPPORT GROUP**

Nicette Crawford & Cathy Smith are working with the Law of Attraction principles and we would like to share our knowledge by offering to meet once a week at the Church to listen to the audio version of the book, discuss and help each other by setting a practice of these principles. We will be meeting this Friday morning at 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. starting this Friday March 6th. All donations will go to the church. Please RSVP if you are interested in attending; Nicette 815-473-6187 or Cathy 815-679-6990

## **PANEL DISCUSSION ON "THE PERSONAL COST OF WAR"**

On Tuesday March 10 at 7:00 p.m. at the McHenry County College Conference Center, the Chicago Iraq Veterans Against the War, the McHenry County Peace Coalition, and the Student Peace Action Network will be presenting "The Personal Cost of War: Viewpoints from Former Soldiers." A panel of U.S. veterans who served in the "war on terror" will share their personal stories of occupation and military service. They will discuss what they saw and what they were asked to do. These "winter soldiers" are not anti-military, but wish to shed light on routine abuses rooted in military policy in an attempt to improve it. Having been there, they believe it is their patriotic duty to inform the people of what is really happening on the ground.

## **EYES WIDE OPEN**

On March 10 and 11 a traveling exhibit called "Eyes Wide Open" will be displayed at McHenry County College. The exhibit features the boots of the soldiers lost in addition to a memorial to the Iraqi civilian casualties. Since the Eyes Wide Open and Cost of War exhibits embarked on their tour around the nation in June 2007, they have been shown in 44 states. The results have been remarkable as the message of human cost of war has expanded to an ever wider audience.

This event is sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee and the Student Peace Action Network at MCC.

### **JOB SEARCH GROUP TO MEET**

The Job Search Group will be meeting in Dan's office on Monday, March 9th at 3:00 p.m. This group is for anyone currently looking for a job and for anyone who has advice, resources, or support to lend. Please contact the church office for more information.

### **MARCH FUN NIGHT –**

Don't forget Fun Night Friday, March 20 at 6:30 p.m. Julia Klein will lead the fun for the evening.

### **FIFTH ANNUAL TASTE OF SRI LANKA**

The fifth annual Taste of Sri Lanka will be held on Saturday, March 7 at 5:00 p.m. at church. The evening is a cultural and festive event filled with a large assortment of traditional Sri Lankan dishes. The food will be cooked by native Sri Lankans, including Sri Lankan monks. The meal includes both dinner and dessert dishes as well as beverages. This year's entertainment will include traditional Sri Lankan music, the O Brother Bluegrass Band, and much more!

Some items on the menu include: saffron and white rice, green beans and potato curry, lentils, Pol Sambol (spicy shredded coconut), soya curry, papadam (Sri Lankan chips), and a traditional dessert.

The cost for the evening is \$25.00 and seating is limited to just 80 people. To reserve tickets, please call 815-444-8915. The event is a fundraiser for the Blue Lotus Buddhist Temple; all proceeds will go to the Temple. Replete with diverse food and entertainment, this is a fun-filled evening offering one of the most unique cultural experiences in McHenry County. For more information, please call 815-444-8915 or e-mail [mail@bluelotustemple.org](mailto:mail@bluelotustemple.org).

### **NEW WOODSTOCK ZEN GROUP**

A second Zen meditation group associated with our church has recently been formed in order to provide more meditation practice opportunities. The new group meets Tuesdays and/or Thursdays from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m.. This group meets at Harold Rail's home, you can contact Harold at 815-236-2511 for more information.

### **CALLING ALL PAGANS AND PRACTITIONERS OF EARTH-BASED RELIGIONS!**

We are gauging interest in a possible pagan organization here at church that may evolve into a chapter of CUUPS, or the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans. If you would be interested in being involved and active in such a group, please contact the church office.

Also, There will be a Spring Equinox celebration March 22 presented by the Raven Wood Grove. Please contact the church office for more information.

## **SPRING IN THE ENERGY OF NIA WORKSHOP**

There will be a Nia workshop on March 22nd from 2:00 -4:30 p.m. in the lower level of the church. Through movement and music we will Awaken the Body in Renewal for Spring. The cost for this workshop is \$30.00 or whatever you can afford. No experience necessary.

## **CHURCH DIRECTORIES ARE HERE!**

The 2008-2009 Church Directories are still available for members to pick up before and after worship services on Sundays through March 16th. Also, if you picked up your directory before February 1, there is an addendum label that should have been added to your directory that was not ready in time. The directories and the addendum labels are available on the table in the Social Room. If you are picking up an addendum label, please be sure to initial beside your name on the roster in the folder so that we know that you picked yours up. After that time, we will be mailing the directories and the addendum labels out. Please stop by the church either this Sunday or next to get your directory or addendum label so that the church can cut mailing costs as much as possible.

*"MAY YOU BE WELL, HAPPY AND PEACEFUL"*