

UUC VOICE

December 4th, 2009

A Publication of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Woodstock
221 Dean Street, Woodstock, IL 60098
(815) 338-0731 ~ office@uucofwoodstock.org www.uucofwoodstock.org

WINTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE – 10:45 A.M.

DECEMBER 6th “The Spirit of Christmas”

Rev. Dan Larsen will speak on “The Spirit of Christmas”. Instead of regular church school this Sunday, the children will practice for their Christmas Pageant.

DECEMBER 13th “Church School Holiday Pageant” - ‘The Many Sources of Light of Life’. We in the UU church draw from other Religions for inspiration & understanding as we seek our own religious path. We learn about the ways of other people, we learn about things that are different and most important the things that are the same. Many religions have celebrations that use light, especially in winter. Please join us for our Holiday Pageant. Children need to arrive at 9:30a.m. Before the service.

DECEMBER 20th “Adult Choir Christmas Concert”

DECEMBER 24th - at 7:00p.m. “Christmas Eve Candlelight Service” Music, stories and a Christmas message from Dan “ ‘Twas the Night Before Christmas...”

DECEMBER 27th “Coffee Cake House”

We will have an after Christmas gathering downstairs at our regular time, 10:45, for coffee, juice, leftover Christmas cookies and stories.

PAGEANT REHEARSALS

Please note that there will be no church school, other than Spirit Play, on Sunday. The children are to go downstairs immediately for rehearsals and Spirit Play on Sunday December 6th.

* On Friday, December 11th at 7:00p.m. The children will have a rehearsal for the pageant here at the church

CHURCH OFFICE CHANGES

This will be Lora Cantele’s last month working in our church office. She will be leaving us as work in her clinical practice has increased. Lora will be available as needed to help in the office while we train her replacement. Karen will be working extended hours in the office during the transition. If you have any questions please call the church office and they will take care of you.

GIVING TREE PROGRAM

The holiday season is upon us and the RE Committee is inviting everyone to join in making the holiday season a little brighter for some of our local families. Our families we are supporting this year were selected from our Latino Outreach program.

The Giving Tree is set up in the community room and has ornament tags attached to it. Each tag contains the age/gender/gift type idea for a member of one of the families. We will gather gifts each week through Sunday, December 20th.

On the week of December 21st, the gifts will be distributed to the families. Please take a tag or two and when you're doing your Christmas shopping for your family, purchase an item or two for an "extended family" member.

We ask that the gifts be returned wrapped, and please attach the tag to the gift when you return it so we can tell who it is for.

If you haven't taken a tag from the tree or you are feeling "shopping challenged," gift cards from local stores (e.g., Jewel, Wal-mart) are welcomed and appreciated and can be turned in either on Sundays (can give to Annette Jasiota or bagged with an adult tag attached to it and put under the tree) or you can drop the gift cards off during the week at the office and we'll make sure they get distributed with the other gifts.

If you have any questions, please contact Annette Jasiota at amjazz8874@yahoo.com or the church office 815-338-0731

CHRISTMAS PEACE VIGIL

On Sunday evening, December 20th at 7:00p.m, we will gather at the church for a peace vigil. Our focus will be peace in the world and not any particular point of view of Iraq or Afghanistan. Please bring a candle with you. We will meet inside the church and then go outside by our new sign to light our candles.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING????

If there is someone who would like to organize some "Christmas Caroling" please contact the church office at 815-338-0731 or office@uucofwoodstock.org . Just give us a date, time and place and we will recruit some carolers!

IRA DONATIONS TO UUCW

Are you 70 ½ or better? Now is Your Opportunity!

The IRA Charitable Rollover tax incentive, available through December 2009, allows individuals aged 70½ and older to donate up to \$100,000 from their Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) and Roth IRAs to public charities such as the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Woodstock without having to count the distributions as taxable income.

That's right; your IRA distribution can be made tax-free. Through the end of this year ONLY, a special IRA rollover provision permits individuals age 70½ and above to make charitable donations of up to \$100,000 from Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) and Roth IRAs without having to count the distributions as taxable income. The IRA Charitable Rollover is intended to benefit donors of all incomes, as well as big and small nonprofits alike.

How does the IRA Rollover Work?

The IRA Charitable Rollover lets taxpayers make donations directly to charitable organizations from their IRAs without paying taxes on them. Ordinarily, taxpayers age 70½ and older must make annual distributions from their IRAs and pay taxes on this money.

Key points to know about the roll over legislation:

- Only contributions completed between now and December 31, 2009 are eligible.
- Donors must be 70½ years old or older when the distribution is made.
- Total IRA rollover contributions can be up to \$100,000 in any one year.
- Distributions must be made directly from the IRA trustee payable to UUCW.

Please contact Bob Jackson or your financial advisor for more information.

PLEASE LOCK DOORS

Please make sure the back door is locked in the kitchen when you leave. IT NEEDS TO BE PUSHED or PULLED TIGHT. Thank you.

NEW FUNDRAISER

Introducing a New Fundraiser that won't cost you a dime! We will take orders for gift cards. Here's how it works:

You choose the gift cards you want to order and fill out a form provided at church. Drop off the form and cash or check (payable to UUC of Woodstock with gift card on the memo line) to Heather Madaus or Whit Sears after church on Sundays, or mail it to the church by Monday. You will receive your orders on the following Sunday.

The church makes \$ by purchasing the cards at a discount and you get the face value of your card! Please consider helping us by planning your weekly expenses for fuel, groceries, entertainment, and gift-giving from this list!

Please contact Heather Madaus for online ordering instructions or with further questions at heathermadaus@sbcglobal.net or at 815-509-7862.

DISCRETIONARY FUND

We would appreciate contributions to the Discretionary Fund. This fund is used for the Latino Outreach Program that meets on Monday evenings from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Please make checks out to the church: UUCW or Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Woodstock with a note in the memo "For Discretionary Fund".

PODCASTS

We are now making Podcasts of many of our worship services. You may go to our website to access the podcasts and please share this information with your friends.

CIRCLE DINNERS SIGN UP DEADLINE APPROACHING

Circle Dinners provide a wonderful way to become better acquainted with church members in an informal setting. Diners will meet for dinner in member's homes on the second Saturday of each month from January through April. Please mark your calendars for January 9, February 13, March 13 and April 10. The host/hostess provides the entrée and the guests round out the menu. Each month diners are rotated to meet with a different group of diners.

If you cannot commit to four Saturdays, or are not comfortable hosting a dinner and you think that you just want to try it out, you may sign up on the "substitute list". Substitutes will be called in when a regular diner is unable to attend. Please note: This is an adult dining group. If you have children, but would like to participate, you are welcome to sign up on the substitute list.

The sign-up sheet is in the Social Room. The last day to sign up for Circle Dinners is Dec. 13th. For more information, please contact Lora in the church office.

CURRENT AFFAIRS DISCUSSION GROUP

The Current Affairs Discussion Group will be meeting in the parsonage at 9 am this Sunday, December 6th. Don Metivier will host a discussion of what's going on in the world with special emphasis on whether or not "I Am My Brother's Keeper".

SPIRITUAL READING GROUP

The Reading Group Meets again on Wednesday, December 9th at 7 pm upstairs in the parsonage. We have ordered copies of a book on "Atheism" and inform members when they are available.

SOCIAL CLUB

"The Social Club" will be the new name of small group #2. They will be meeting monthly at the homes of members.

On Tuesday, December 8th the meeting will be at the home of Ray & Amy Beth, they live at 303 Hoy St. in Woodstock. The phone number is 815-338-4245. Please call Amy and let her know if you can attend and if you will be able to bring a snack or beverage.

The agenda this evening is about "getting acquainted". If you are interested in joining our group please contact the church office at 815-338-0731 or office@cucw.org

MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Group will be meeting on Thursday, December 10th at the home of Bob Tirk, 1513 Rhett Pl. in Woodstock. I will make a big pot of Lithuanian Chili (very mild stuff not spicy at all). Dinner will be served at 6 and happy hour will start at 5. I will have plenty of adult beverages as well as soft drinks. If you wish you could bring an appetizer but not necessary. Call if you need directions 815-334-8050. Please RSVP! PS...Hot sauce will be available for those who like me need to jazz it up a bit.

COVENANT OF UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS PAGANS

CUUPS (our Pagan Group) will be meeting for a 'Teatime' Friday, December 11th (second Friday of the month) for open discussion and planning at 7 pm downstairs in the church. Roz Zarecki is the contact person at 815-245-1692.

YOUNG FAMILIES

The newly forming Young Families Group is having a holiday party on Saturday, December 19th at 4 p.m. at the home of Shelly Nicholson and Carlos Valdes (Fernando and Alejandro). 119 Norman Drive, McHenry, IL (815) 322-2533.

Bring an appetizer, an adult beverage. We will supply pizza and juice/milk and cookies for the kids. Please RSVP to Shelly by Thursday Dec. 17th

Also, The Young Families Group are sponsoring a local family for Christmas. Pastor Dan gave us an entire family in lieu of including them in the gift giving ornaments project at the church. We hope that by doing this as a group we can teach our children the importance of giving back to those less fortunate. We will have the kids make cards for the family as well as tell a story about the magic of doing for others. If you see something you want to contribute, let me know so I can track who is doing what. If you would rather put money towards one of the more expensive items (coats, DS) I can facilitate that as well. Anything left over will go into a K-mart gift card.

Gloria (mom)

shirts, pants, winter coat (size 10)
floral scented cream

Gloria (age 10)

shirts and pants (size 8-10)
Baby Alive Doll

Carlos (age 11)

boots (size 8) and winter coat (size 12)
DS video console

Mia (age 2) size 4

winter jacket and snow pants, regular pants
Doll with stroller

Any questions or concerns?

call Shelly at (815) 322-2533 - home or (614) 456-9744 - cellular

SPIRITUAL PRACTICES GROUP

The Spiritual Practices group will be meeting on Monday, December 7th at 7:00 p.m. in the parsonage. We will be continuing our study with a handbook based on a book by Peter Tufts Richardson, a UU minister, called "Growing your Spirituality". Richardson combines the four major personality types (Jung and also the Meyers-Briggs Test) with the Four Spiritual Types and helps us to grow spiritually and psychologically on our own particular path.

OFFICE SCHEDULE

Lora Cantele and Karen Stowe share in the secretarial duties at the church office. You will find the office schedule below.

Monday, Dec. 7th: 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. – Lora Cantele & Lori 9-2

Tuesday, Dec. 8th: all day – Janet Burns

Wednesday, Dec. 9th: 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. – Karen Stowe

Thursday, Dec. 10th: 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Karen Stowe & Lori 9-12

Friday, Dec. 11th: 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. – Karen Stowe

Monday, Dec. 14th: 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. – Karen Stowe & Lori 10-2

Tuesday, Dec. 15th: all day – Janet Burns

Wednesday, Dec. 16th: 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. – Karen Stowe

Thursday, Dec. 17th: 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Karen Stowe

Friday, Dec. 18th: 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. – Lora Cantele & Lori 10-2

“MAY YOU BE WELL, HAPPY AND PEACEFUL”