



Universalist Unitarian Church of Joliet

ScUUp

December 15, 2024

Upcoming Services

12/15 - "The Poor Have Only Christmas" by Bittersweet Christmas Band

A service on the obligation of those who have more to give freely to those who have less, especially during the holiday season of hope and renewal. The goal of this service will not be to arouse guilt, but instead to concentrate on awareness and compassion.

12/22 - "Christmas Kindness" by the Rev. Ms. Denise Tracy

A meditation on the purpose of this holiday.

12/24 - Christmas Eve Service by Cathy Coss

Join us as we celebrate the holidays with a UUCJ Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7 P.M. on Tuesday, December 24th. This will be a family friendly service from 7 P.M. to 8 P.M. with light refreshments afterwards

12/29 - Presentation by Treibh na Tintean

How to Attend Virtual Services

While we love for everyone to join us in person, we understand sometimes you just can't, in those situations, please feel free to join us online.

Go to our website www.uujoliet.org to join us online. Service starts at 10:30 A.M. Please be sure to sign in using your first and last name. We would like to be able to see who is fellowshipping with us (our members, friends, and guests).

If the link does not work, you may use the following example to type into the browser bar: **<https://bit.ly/UUCJ-2024MMDD>**

If you go back to the UUCJ website, you will see another button

that will bring you to the coffee hour

For those of you who join our services by phone call use the following code to dial in use the phone number (309) 248-0704:

12/15 - 179 118 965#

12/22 - 670 839 743#

12/24 - 379 623 061#

12/29 - 579 120 303#

During the month of December ,our recipient is the **Family Outreach Program**. They are a food pantry that services residents in Joliet, Crest Hill, Lockport, Romeoville, and Bolingbrook areas. Information available at www.familyoutreachprogam.org Please write **FAMILY** on your checks or envelopes or just place loose money in the plate.



Adult Book Discussion Group - 12/15/2024 at 9:00 A.M.
Holiday Dinner - 12/15/2024 at 12:00 P.M.
Full Moon Ritual - 12/15/2024 at 6:30 P.M.
Tea Party - 12/17/2024 at 6:00 P.M.
Monthly Board Meeting - 12/19/2024 at 7:00 P.M.
Yule with Treibh - 12/21/2024 at 6:30 P.M.
Adult Book Discussion Group - 12/22/2024 at 9:00 A.M.

PRINCIPAL

PAY-OFF

We have been issued another challenge to help pay off the mortgage!

An anonymous donor has agreed to pay \$5,000 to match all donations received between October 27th - December 31st. This money will be

used to pay off the Principal of our mortgage as additional payments to our regular monthly payment. Last year we raised of \$10,000!! Let's see if we can meet or even double that amount this time! Please make payments out to UUCJ and write MORTGAGE on the memo line or envelope and any on-line payment should also include MORTGAGE in the notes section (or send the office an email to let us know that). Every donation, no matter how large or small, makes a difference! ***We have currently raised \$4,084.50 towards our goal!***

BOARD INFO

The next board meeting will be **Thursday, December 19th.** Committee and Group Chairpersons **please have your report to the office by Friday, December 13th.** Any recommendations of organizations for donation of the monthly plate collections to, please send the information to the office at uucjoffice@uujoliet.org or place a list in Michelle's mailbox in the Dicken's room.

COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY

You may have received an email from Microsoft. This is expected, as we had to change our Microsoft licensing structure. There is no action required on your part.

There will be no C&T meetings until January. For C&T concerns please see Ray Thom or Grant Prellwitz.

LAY MINISTRY

MEMBERSHIP

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

We are looking to get the Children's RE Program up and running. If you are interested, please contact Ray Thom (rthom@uujoliet.org) or the office.

Children may NOT be in the RE or Nursery classroom without an adult present with them. When they are done for the day, toys and items used must be picked up and placed back in the proper place.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

SOCIAL JUSTICE MOVIE NIGHT

ADULT BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The Book Discussion Group meets both in-person/online at 9:00 A.M. To join us online, go to <https://bit.ly/UUCJAdultDiscussion>. You may also join through our website. The Book Discussion Group is wrapping up *WomanSpirit: The Rise of Feminism and the Empowerment of Women in Liberal Religion*, edited by the Reverends Denise Tracey and Emmy Lou Belcher. The next book is short but vital to our democracy: *On Tyranny* by Timothy Snyder. To be an informed citizen we must all become aware of the world that connects with dictators around us and within the U.S. Then, we hope to read, discuss, and learn from Toni Morrison's *Song of Solomon*. After that, we will delve into Paul Tillich's *The Courage To Be*. Tillich was one of the most influential theologians of the

twentieth century. If you wish to be challenged, please join us as we delve into the deep thoughts of Tillich.

OFFICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Building Use Forms and Office Administrator Work Request forms are available on the office door. You may place filled out forms in the Office Administrator mailbox in the Dicken's Room.

Office Hours for the week: Monday - Thursday 9:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.

Holiday Hours: December 23, 24, 26 9:00 am - 1:00 pm, CLOSED 12/25 and 12/27.

CLARA BARTON GUILD

PEACE POLE GARDEN

MUSIC & WORSHIP

Choir will meet after coffee hour from 12:15-1:00 on Dec. 22nd.

DRUMMING CIRCLE

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

The congregational seasonal Holiday Dinner/Potluck will be held Sunday, December 15th, after service. Part of the meal will be catered, and the rest will be done potluck style. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Tea Party - December 17, 2024 at 6:00 P.M.

Back by popular demand, we're going to have another tea party!! Come on out and enjoy a relaxing tea time with friends. Feel free to dress up, wear a lovely hat, or just come as you are. Tea, light snacks, and games will be provided. Feel free to bring something to share if you'd like!

BUILDING & GROUNDS

There will be no B&G meeting until January. For Building and Grounds concerns, please contact Richard Wachenheim.

GREEN AT UUCJ

We are asking anyone who takes a bottle of water out of the small fridge to consider making a donation so that the church may buy additional cases to supplement those that are donated. Please place \$1 (or whatever you are led to donate) in the locked purple box on top of the fridge.

TREIBH NA TINTEAN

December full moon ritual will be on Sunday December 15 in the Covenant Woods weather permitting. In case of inclement weather, we will be inside the church (lights inside church will be on as an indication we are inside). If we are outside, we will have a warm fire in the center of the sacred circle in the woods.

Gather at 6:30 P.M.; ritual starts at 7:00 P.M.

The coming of winter earned December's full moon the name cold moon. Other names include the long night moon and the oak moon.

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Celebration Yule with your UUCJ Pagan group.

December 21, 2024 Gather at 6:30 P.M.; Ritual starts at 7:00 P.M.

Weather permitting (inside if temps are frigid or ground is mucky) we will be outside with a nice warm fire. If conditions are good, we will have a Yule bonfire.

What is Yule: [What Is Yule? | Burning of the Yule Log | The Old Farmer's Almanac](#)

[Treibh Na Tinteán | Pagan community proudly serving the Joliet area since 1994 \(jolietnt.org\)](#)

**FINANCE**

December is the last month of the year. If you have receipts to turn in, please get them to the office no later than December 27, 2024.

All monies to be recorded for this TAX YEAR should be received in the office by December 30th. Donations can be made by cash, check, or via Paypal.

Please remember that you can donate funds to a specific group or category, not just general donations. You can indicate on your envelope or the check memo line if the money is to go to: Coffee Hour, Hospitality, C & T, RE, Music & Worship, Social Justice Movie Night, Mortgage, Minister Fund (to help establish the balance needed to get a minister), Food Pantry, Split the Plate (the monthly recipient info is above), Office, Make a Difference Fund, or Endowment.

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Greetings to the Members and Friends of UUCJ,  
The treasurers of UUCJ are taking this opportunity to give you a brief update on some of the financial matters of the church. As of December 7, 2024, the mortgage balance is \$64,595.95. In November, the church donated an extra (above the mortgage payments) \$3,134.50 to the principal on the mortgage. Remember there is a matching contest going on regarding the mortgage. A generous congregant will match any donations to the mortgage principal (up to \$5,000 total) given on or before December 31, 2024.

Split the Plate Donations: In October we sent a check for \$226.50 to the Alliance for Community services. In November we sent a check for \$510.50 to Mother Grove Goddess Temple for relief from Hurricane Helene. Food pantry donations are ongoing. In October 2024 we sent a check for \$600.00 to Second Baptist Blessing Table/Food Pantry.

The church has had to make some investments in the HVAC system which has caused our General Operating checking account to have a balance below \$10,000. We (the treasurers) like to keep this balance above \$20,000, so \$15,000 was transferred from savings to checking. This in turn put the savings balance below \$5,000. The church has three CDs. One of them has a maturity date this month. The treasurers are asking that \$15,000 of this CD (balance is \$47,099.97) be transferred to our savings account and the rest be reinvested.

Sincerely,  
Margaret M. Juraco and Jeannie Owen

In these turbulent times, we wanted to take a moment to reflect on the extraordinary efforts of UUs across the country who contributed to our UU the Vote work during this election season. No matter the results of the election, your commitment to justice and strengthening our democracy has made a real difference. Together, we mobilized, educated, and inspired thousands of people across key states, demonstrating the transformative power of our faith in action.

A few highlights from UU democracy organizing across the US:

**Arizona:** UU the Vote volunteers canvassed tirelessly, focusing on pivotal ballot initiatives, including Proposition 139 (expanding abortion care) and Proposition 314 (an anti-immigrant measure). Alongside local partners and out-of-state volunteers, we knocked on doors, educated voters, and grew relationships with grassroots partner organizations.

**North Carolina:** With legislative and judicial races on the line, UU volunteers and partners connected with over 12,000 voters, with a chorus that uplifted spirits at early voting sites, demonstrating that resilience and hope are powerful antidotes to intimidation and fear.

**National Efforts:** Phone-banking efforts in collaboration with State Action Networks in MI, NC, PA, and TX ensured voters were informed and empowered to make their voices heard. In Arizona, Colorado, Florida, and Wisconsin, UU volunteers canvassed the weekend before Election Day.

Through every conversation, song, and step, you embodied our faith's commitment to justice, love, and equity. Thank you.

As we reflect on these efforts, we also invite you to consider an essential question posed by UUA President Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt during a recent fireside chat with UUSC President Rev. Mary Katherine Morn: *How do we make our interdependence faithful and value-driven?* These two theologians and leaders discussed the UU theological grounding for climate justice, highlighting that interdependence is not always positive—someone upstream polluting has an interdependent relationship with those downstream. This question challenges us to align our interconnectedness with values of justice, compassion, and care.

You are invited to explore this conversation further by watching the UU Theological Grounding for [Climate Justice Fireside Chat](#), a 32-minute recording that includes reporting from small group discussions across the UUA.

### **3 Resources to Empower Your Community as We Move Forward**

While the election is behind us, there is still much work left to be done. The challenges ahead demand that we remain resilient, adaptable, and deeply connected to one another. In response, we have three resources to empower your community as we move forward.

#### **1) Tap into the Community Resilience Hub**

The election may be over, but the work continues! The [Community Resilience Hub](#) is your go-to destination for tools, resources, and inspiration to help your congregation and community stay organized, advocate for justice, and heal together. Dive into everything it offers to stay grounded and connected as you move forward.

#### **2) Contribute to the Congregational Asset Map Survey**

Your congregation's unique strengths matter! By filling out the [Congregational Asset Map Survey](#), you'll help us build a comprehensive view of our collective resources.

Together, we can ensure that our movement remains strong and impactful in the years to come.

#### **3) Share Your Insights in the UUA Community Care and Resilience Survey**

Let your voice shape the future! The [UUA Community Care and Resilience Survey](#) is an opportunity to share your perspectives and help us strategically address challenges and opportunities ahead. Don't miss your chance to contribute before the end of the year!

As we move forward, we will continue to provide you with information, updates, and resources to empower you to be a witness for love and justice in your communities and beyond. But until then, may this blessing ignite a spark within your soul that empowers you to press onward with faith and hope:

*May the love that binds us together bring the healing we seek.*

*May the hope that ignites our souls keep our eyes fixed on the prize of collective liberation.*

*May the peace that comes from knowing we are each other's strengthen our resolve.*

*May the joy inspired by the vision of a more just world propel us into the work ahead.*

*May the faith that sustains us guide our path with courage and grace.*

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to our collective liberation. Your efforts are a testament to the transformative power of our faith and the boundless possibilities of what we can achieve together.

In gratitude and solidarity,  
your Side With Love team



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