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# ComUUnicator

*Bringing you the news of the United Unitarian Universalist Congregation*

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Office hours  
Monday 9-3 pm  
Thursday 9-3 pm  
262-544-1050

April 2017



United UU Congregation  
506 N. Washington Avenue  
Waukesha, WI 53188  
uniteduuc@gmail.com

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## **April 2, 2017 – “God Must Have a Wicked Sense of Humor.” - Rev. David Kraemer**

April's theme is “Transformation.” We will begin the month with a look at how our idea of God has evolved through history, from ancient imaging, to a modern reconciliation with science. It is the beginning of April, so we won't do this without telling a joke or two.

## **April 9, 2017 – “Holy, human Jesus.” - Rev. David Kraemer**

Palm Sunday on the Christian calendar. Come hear Rev. David's take on who Jesus was, what he was like. The evidence we can draw from the gospels paints a different picture of the man than we usually get from popular culture.

## **April 13, 2017 – 5:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday.**

Traditional communion with scripture, bread and wine. Juice and gluten free choices available.

## **April 16, 2017 – “The Defiant Sound of Life.” - Rev. David Kraemer**

Easter, a day to celebrate new life, with ancient roots in Passover, and goddesses, and spring and the cycles of the moon. New life, emerging from the murk and the mud. We will celebrate with stories of sandhill cranes, of dying and living, and the nature of resurrection.

## **April 23, 2017 “Earth Day Comes Alive”!- Guest speakers Glen And Kathy Greiger**

Glen and Kathy Greiger will speak about Earth Day, its history, its meaning for us today, and give us examples of how we can live our 7th Principle by not only respecting, but helping our interdependent web of diversity thrive.

## **April 30, 2017 – Guest speaker - Phillip Chard**

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# Letter From the Minister

Behind my house in Rochester was a maple tree – a red maple, not a sugar maple, not so good for syrup, but still good for some column material. This time of year it is still etched mostly in the grays of winter. But in mid-March, the tips of each branch begin to turn red, itching to touch something. I imagine the tree can feel this. Its blood is pumping, life is returning. By now the bright buds are unfurling. From a distance, they are tongues of fire licking the fingertips of the tree. Up close, they are even more fantastical, tiny explosions of form, impossible, improbable shapes, Like something from sci-fi.

This month is a bud about to burst. This month is all about the return of life to the earth. Winter has pulled back its covers, the light is shining in, it is time to get up, get out, clean out the gutters and take care of whatever yard work didn't get done before the snow fell. It is time to start thinking about the garden. Open the windows. Air out the house. Life is returning.

In the past couple of months, we have talked a lot about our changing world, about what we can find to pin some hope to, even when the news is so dismal.

One thing that gives me hope is the persistent, indefatigable, incessant, irresistible force of life, emerging each spring from the murk and the mud. It seems so unlikely. Somehow, some way, where once there was no life, suddenly, there is. It keeps popping up. Life, inside us and around us, recurring, eternal. This is what incarnation means to me. Life incarnate in blood and bone, in tree sap and bursting buds.

Our theme for April is "Transformation." Easter happens this month. I plan to talk a bit about our Christian roots and how they have become transformed into our modern expression of Unitarian Universalism. Part of our observance this month will be a traditional communion service, offered on Maundy Thursday. You can read a little more about that elsewhere in this newsletter.

The message on Easter itself will be more syncretized under the title "The Defiant Sound of Life." Defiance, and Life, and Hope will wind their way through our celebration.

I hope you stretch out your own fingers this month and feel life returning to the earth.

Rev. David Kraemer's hours  
Monday 9am-3pm  
Thursday 9am-3pm  
[minister@uniteduuc.org](mailto:minister@uniteduuc.org)



# Announcements & Events

## Religious Education, DRE Katelyn Berken

In April we will continue to explore the traditions that comprise Christianity. We will do so through Easter and following that we will be touching on present day worldly occurrences. We will discuss current issues religions may be facing. We will also continue to explore ways in which we are connected to the world as a whole.



Katelyn is available by email at [dre@uniteduuc.org](mailto:dre@uniteduuc.org)

## RE Volunteers needed

Volunteers are needed to lead religious education on a couple occurrences in April when the Director of Religious Education is not able to be present. The dates are April 16th and 30th. Volunteers would be responsible for implementing the lesson plan that will be provided to them.

## Potluck, April 2

Our next potluck will be held after services on April 2. Soup and Sandwiches are on the menu! A sign up sheet is in the Fellowship hall. See Kaye Wickenberg with questions.



TREASURER'S REPORT for 2016-17 Fiscal Year			
Income		Amounts from 7/1/16 - 03/10/17	Amount Budgeted for the Year 7/1/16- 6/30/17
	Pledges	\$44,807	\$66,156
	Other Income	\$25,478	\$42,866
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$70,285</b>	<b>\$109,022</b>
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>72,774</b>	<b>\$106,613</b>
	<b>Income - Expenses</b>	<b>(\$2,489)</b>	<b>\$2,409</b>
	Mortgage Balance on 03/10/17 was \$140,586		
	Endowment Balance on 03/10/17 was \$206,971		

## Strange Brew/Soul Matters

After a few months of experimenting with time, location and format, the groups that have been loosely meeting as “Strange Brew” this year are beginning to find a groove.

The Wednesday evening pizza-and-beer group has found the evening hour, combined with food, an off-site location, and a more informal structure, is what they need. So we’re going to continue Strange Brew on the second Wednesday of the month at Magellan’s, in downtown Waukesha.

One small change, we will meet at 6:30 p.m. for Strange Brew, to accommodate the new yoga group, which meets at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesdays.

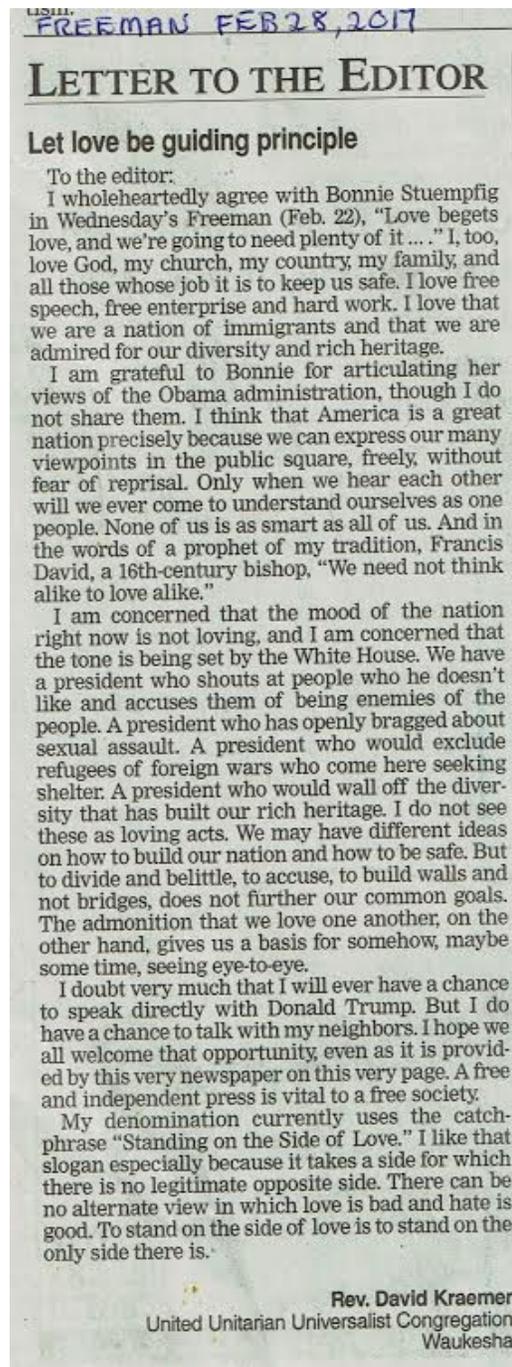
The coffee group, which has met at a downtown coffee shop on a Thursday, is finding it would like a quieter, more private location. So we’re going to move that group back to church in April. We will meet at 10 a.m. on the second Thursday of the month, in the small conference room (library). We will still make coffee. As this group grows, I suspect we will begin to treat this with a little more structure. You might want to make sure you read your Soul Matters packets if you attend.

Both groups remain open and flexible. In fact, they are not really “groups” at all, but times and locations where you might find others who wish for connection and community. You are welcome to join in any time you wish.

The schedule this month will be:  
Strange Brew - 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 12, at Magellan’s, downtown Waukesha.

Soul Matters – 10 a.m. Thursday, April 13, at church.

Last month, Rev. David Kraemer had his Letter to the Editor published in the Waukesha Freeman.





United's 14th annual Spring Auction  
"Jazz in the Park"  
April 29, 2017 starting at 6 pm

Our theme this year is "Jazz in the Park" and you definitely don't want to miss the fun. The annual auction is our largest fundraiser of the year that provides a substantial percentage of our operating budget to do all of the great things we do. Get ready to bid on some wonderful items, purchase homemade treats and have a great time!! Be sure to tell your friends and family!

Schedule for the nights' events:

6-7 pm - Dessert sale and item viewing

6-8:15 pm Silent Auction

7-8:30 pm Live Auction

8:30 pm Approximate time of check out

Still thinking about your auction donation? The auction committee reminds you that the deadline is fast approaching - Saturday, April 8th is the final day that donations will be accepted for this year's auction.

Have questions or want to help? Please contact the auction committee at [auction@uniteduuc.org](mailto:auction@uniteduuc.org)



# Social Action: Advocacy

## A Three-legged Stool

Our social justice work is sometimes likened to a three-legged stool. The legs are service, advocacy and education. When all three legs are strong, they provide a solid base.

Here at this church, our Social Action team is strong. It draws more than a dozen members to its monthly meetings, and it meets regularly on the third Sunday of each month.

But the complexity of the task has become apparent, especially now, when the demands of service, and systemic change, and understanding all are much more than any 12 people can handle in one half-hour meeting once a month.

To help us respond, in March we divided Social Action into task groups that will address, separately, service, and advocacy, and education.

The service task group will continue to meet on the traditional third Sunday of the month. It will be coordinated by Ellen Poplawski. The coat drive, boot drive, meals for Hebron House, Christmas Clearing House, food shelf, blood drive, quilting, and other service projects we already do or might like to do are included in this task group.

An advocacy task force will hold its initial meeting on April 2. Adele Revoy and Jim Brownlow have stepped up to lead this group. Activities that might be engaged by this task group are efforts such as speaking out for racial justice, attending and testifying at school board or local government meetings, supporting women's health rights, and participating in demonstrations or other public statements. The advocacy task group hopes to meet regularly on the first Sunday of the month, following worship.

The last leg of the stool is education. Rev. David will lead this effort through continued discussion with the Book Club, in offering film series or discussion topics, and training in partnership with SOPHIA of Waukesha County or with other Unitarian Universalist churches in this area.

These task groups are not mutually exclusive. You might be interested in many parts of this at the same time. Splitting the whole into task groups allows us to better focus our efforts.

May we all work together to build a better world.

Rev. David Kraemer will offer a traditional communion service, with bread and wine, in a Christian context, on Maundy Thursday this month. The service will be at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, April 13.

Traditional communion was offered in December and was well-received by those who participated. Several others who were not able to attend expressed an interest in this service, so we will offer it once again.

The service will acknowledge our Unitarian and Universalist roots in Christianity and the sacrament that has been a powerful part of many people's lives. It is recognized that this practice is sometimes controversial in this and other Unitarian Universalist congregations. Rev. David is always available to talk about your views of communion either before or after this service.

Non-alcoholic and gluten free choices will be available.

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## Social Action: Service

### Blood Drive

United will host a Blood Drive tentatively set for June 1. The previously scheduled date of May 24 has been canceled. Please watch for announcements in emails, and the Sunday bulletins.

To make this Blood Drive a success, we need you to sign up to be a life saver along with any friends or family members who are also eligible. Contact Ellen Poplawski at 262-844-5161 with questions.

### Food Pantry Collection

We continue to collect non-perishable food items for local food pantries. While all non-perishables are welcome, Lisa Bieri contacts the Food Pantry to determine most-needed items on a monthly basis.

For April, we'll focus on hot and cold cereals, soy milk and rice milk.

### These shoes were made for giving - Ongoing shoe collection

As of March 19, members and friends of United have donated 177 pairs of shoes. The collection basket in the front foyer and they are delivered on a regular basis to the Hope Center. Keep em' coming and thank you!



### Cooking for Hebron House

On April 9, after services, our crew of Betty Crockers and Julia Childs will tie on aprons to prepare and deliver a meal to the Hebron House of Hospitality. The meal is always graciously accepted and much appreciated by those in need. April 9 will be our last meal we prepare for the church year. If you have any questions, see our head grocery shopper and maestro, Kaye Wickenberg, with any questions. Come lend a hand!

### Little Lending Library

If you have books to donate to our library, please bring them into the office or to the Fellowship hall. They are sorted, labeled with our name and added to our Little Lending Library outside the church.



## United UUC Facebook group

United is a welcoming, passionate community of intelligence and purpose. As we grow our community, we'll be seeking more ways to communicate with each other about important topics.

The new United UUC Facebook group is one of these communications tools.

As members of this group, we respect each other and welcome discussions of important events and topics both within our church community and in the larger world. This group is a place for a useful exchange of information regarding those events and topics that you think our community should know.

If you wish to join this Facebook group or have any questions, please contact the administrator, Carol Pauly at [carol\\_pauly@hotmail.com](mailto:carol_pauly@hotmail.com).

## April Greeters and Coffee hosts

### Greeters

- 4/2 Bonnie Koehler and Gen Freese
- 4/9 Carol and John Pauly
- 4/16 Dave and Melissa Stolow
- 4/23 Adele Revoy and Cyd Fode
- 4/30 Mary Beth Danielson and Len Lamberg

### Coffee hosts

- 4/2 Sandy Zingler and Barb Johnson
- 4/9 Alex and Marcia Romashko
- 4/16 Chet and Sally Celenza
- 4/23 Mike Reavis and Kelly Mindiola
- 4/30 Evan Williams and Chad Lantow

## Mindful Meditation Group

Although not a United UUC group, The Mindful Meditation Group meets every Tuesday from 7:00 - 8:30 pm, at United, in the sanctuary.

Everyone is welcome. No meditation experience necessary. Learn or deepen a meditation practice with a friendly and welcoming group of people.

Benefits include reduced stress and anxiety, and cultivating peace of mind, concentration, and happiness

Please contact Larry Hopwood at [lehopwood@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lehopwood@sbcglobal.net) with questions.



## Buddhist Study Group

The Buddhist Study Group meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM at the Linden Grove Mukwonago campus, 837 Veterans Way, Mukwonago.

Questions can be directed to Patti Kies by using the group's email, [buddha@uniteduuc.org](mailto:buddha@uniteduuc.org).

**Please remember, you are responsible for finding your own replacements if you are unable to attend church on your scheduled day.**



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## Looking back, by Susan Bergmann, historian

When we sold our church on Main Street in May 2007 to the Episcopal Church, our congregation was happy that it would continue to be used as a church. Our congregation loved the building and had worked hard to have it placed on the Register of Historic places in 1987. We did not want it to be used for a retail business, or worse yet, torn down. The two-story 1878 New England meetinghouse style church was unusual in that the building's sacred and community spaces were separate, with a meeting hall on the ground floor and the sanctuary on the second floor, and we wanted it to remain a Village Landmark.

Unfortunately, the Episcopal Church closed its doors in September 2014. The building was put on the market and it was almost two years before it was sold to a landscaping company in 2016. Now it looks like the community hall that was once the hub of village life, serving as a polling place, auction house, livestock sales hall, community center, and the first village library, is in the news again as it is slated to become a boutique.

Nicole Gunderson, the current owner, requested a minor site plan review to open a business in the lower level and, in February, 2017 the Village Plan Commission approved her request. To complete the renovation the lower level will be remodeled and decorated. This is the space that was formerly our Fellowship Hall/RE space until 2005 when we moved our services to downstairs to accommodate members who could no longer climb the stairs. We used this less-than-ideal space for several months before deciding that it would be greatly improved if we painted it. Many hands make light work, and we were indeed fortunate that most of our abled bodied congregation showed up to help paint. After the room was prepped our UU painting crews took two days to complete the work. Painting those high ceilings and all the woodwork was quite a challenge, but it meant that when the church year started in September, 2006 we were able to hold our services in much more congenial surroundings.

Accessibility is one building code the new owner will not have to worry about, because, as the Plan Commission noted, the lower level of the building is handicap accessible. That is because we built a ramp in 2005. The official opening of the new ramp was an exciting day for our congregation.

Once the boutique remodeling is finished, the building will need an occupancy permit to ensure that emergency egress lighting meets the village codes. The site also requires a minimum of 10 on-site parking spaces, but as there is no room to add parking spaces the commission has ruled that there is sufficient street parking. It all brings back memories of parking on the street every Sunday and walking up to church.

The new "Feather and Fringe Boutique," will sell women's and children's clothing, accessories, specialty soaps, skincare and home accessories.



The lower level of our former church after it was painted in 2006.



Our former home at 216 Main St. before the ramp was installed.



The official opening of the ramp in 2005. Char Simpson cuts the ribbon, with Fern Strikler and Linda Hurst looking on. Kim Johnson is taking a photo.

# April 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
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SOUP AND SANDWICH POTLUCK 11:45 AM - Membership meeting 11:45 AM - Social Actions meeting - Advocacy	2	3	4 9:30 AM - Threads United 5:30 PM - Yoga in the Sanctuary 6:30 PM - Buddhist Study Group	5	6	7 Auction donation deadline	8
11:45 AM- Auction committee meeting 12 PM - Hebron House meal	9	10 3 PM - United Board meeting	11	12 5:30 PM - Yoga in the Sanctuary 6:30 PM - Strange Brew (Magellan's)	13 10 AM - Strange Brew (at United) 5:30 PM - Communion	14	15
11:45 AM - Social Actions meeting - Services Easter Sunday	16	17 2:30 PM - Policy committee meeting 3:30 PM - RE committee meeting	18	19 5:30 PM - Yoga in the Sanctuary 6:30 PM - Buddhist Study Group	20	21	22
23	24	25 6:30 PM - Book Club	26 5:30 PM - Yoga in the Sanctuary	27	28	29 6 PM -Jazz in the Park Spring Auction	
30							