



FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

April 2018 Newsletter

First Unitarian Society of Chicago 5650 S. Woodlawn Ave., Chicago IL 60637 (773) 324-4100

Emerge
Rev. Teri Schwartz

Yearning for a new way will not produce it. Only ending the old way can do that
— Richard Rohr

Every winter, I buy an Amaryllis bulb. I like to watch it grow over the long, dark, and cold days of January and February. With each bit it grows, I know that I'm that much closer to spring. This year, I bought my annual Amaryllis at the grocery store—but with a few other things on my mind. Our family was moving to a new home mid-winter, and had much work ahead. Starting in January, I had some personal goals that I committed to practice daily. My 2018 Amaryllis would be my visual reminder of our family ending one chapter and beginning the next. As it grew taller, bit by bit, it would be my metaphor for my own daily progress. It would remind me that even on hard days, spring—and beauty—is coming.

Needless to say, it was a busy time. Distracted by the move, packing, work, kiddos, and all of the daily things we each

tend to, I left the Amaryllis in its box. The time just was never quite right. Whenever I saw it sit on a cluttered kitchen counter, I always seemed to be in the middle of something more pressing.

One day, I opened the box. The poor plant had tried. One stalk, white, pale green, and sickly, had grown out of the bulb, curved by the confines of its dark box. It even tried to blossom; it sent forth a bud. But with no sunlight or water, it was impossible. The box had been useful: it got the bulb from the nursery to the store to my house. But the box meant to save its life almost killed it.

Well...I had almost killed it. I was a terrible plant parent. I attempted to redeem myself: I planted the poor thing and set it in the window. I didn't know if it was recoverable. A few days later, it was clear the Amaryllis

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stalk was lost. I cut it off. But I didn't throw the bulb out. Most Amaryllis flowers have two stalks. So I waited.

Nothing happened for quite some time. David thought I was being a bit silly. Then, I showed him the smallest bit of green leaf poking through the dead-looking bulb. We moved to our new home. The plant had not grown as much as I thought it would by then. But now, I had a sunny kitchen window with Southern exposure. I put it there—and it shot up—catching up for lost time.

Our April worship theme is Emergence. What possibility in you has the potential to bloom? In the church? In the world? How have we boxed ourselves in? How do we cut ourselves off from what nourishes us? How do change our circumstances so we can



grow? Sometimes we have to not only escape our confines, but change our location entirely before we can live the change we wish to become.

Franciscan friar and ecumenical leader, Fr. Richard Rohr, says, "Yearning for a new way will not produce it. Only ending the old way can do that." Our boxes may safely get us from place to place, but we can't grow into our best selves that way. We have to leave the safety of our boxes behind, even if they served the great purpose of getting us from point A to point B. Before we can emerge, we have to end the old way. Part of us might even die. But when we step out of our box, only then, can we emerge from bulb to blossom.

May it be so for each of us, our church, and our world.

Blessings,
Rev. Teri

Compassion for a Rat? Thom Thomas, Student Minister

The news of the past couple of weeks has filled my head with the notion of rats deserting a sinking ship. As I have pondered this phrase I have noticed that the word "rats" in my mental voice is pronounced with a kind disdain. The image in my mind is always of dirty, greasy, cowardly rats. When did rats get such a bad rap? What do we expect the rats to do if the ship is sinking? Are they supposed to repair the damage somehow? It almost seems that we hold the rats responsible for the ship sinking.

I have friends who keep rats as pets. They argue with some force that rats are clean, inquisitive, and even loving pets, and that their bad reputation is unearned. I had a colleague recently point out to me that if the ship is sinking, the rats are probably not the only ones trying to get off. My friend argued that we should try to have some compassion for the rats.

As Unitarian Universalists, we are supposed to believe in the worth and dignity of every

person. There are, admittedly, people in the world who make this a challenge. How can I believe in the worth and dignity of someone whose actions in the world I find repulsive, and whose speech articulates a world view that is offensive to me? Maybe compassion means that you start by assuming that the person is not evil, but rather just damaged. Maybe compassion starts by trying to understand their pain, and trying to imagine what it would take for each of us to walk

down the same path. Maybe the rats are leaving the ship because they are terrified and in pain and they are just trying to find a way to survive a world that they don't understand.

If it is possible to find compassion for a rat, is it really so much harder to find it for a fellow human, even when they are doing something we think is wrong?

This Month in RE: Emergence

Beth Moss, Director of Religious Education (RE)

This month's theme is emergence. Just a few weeks ago, we celebrated the emergence of our new chalice lighters with a special dedication. For the newsletter, I wished to share that chalice history once more, and honor the hard work of these young people as they make a transition in their church life.

Why does this matter? When Unitarian Universalists gather, we light a chalice as our sacred fire. Fire has been important to humans and to many faith traditions...but, why, you might ask is that sacred fire inside a chalice important to us? As a creedless faith, they are but a few special things we consistently share. This is one of them, and in short, this is why.

A man named Hans Deutsch decided Unitarians needed a symbol to show refugees from many different countries and faiths that Unitarians were available to help them during the upheaval caused by world war two. When refugees saw the flaming chalice, they understood that the symbol stood for help. Unitarian's loved being the church of the helping hands and everything else the chalice stood for, so they kept it.

Today the flame gives us light, so we can see all different things. The two circles represent Unitarians and Universalists being united. Those two circles keep us all together, so we can help each other. The chalice, shaped like a communion cup, reminds us of our history as a Christian denomination and today it reminds us we can share with each other, while the room inside the circles leaves space to invite everyone to come be a part of our church family.

This January, a few of our youth quietly found a new role as part of that church family. They became trained chalice lighters. Hidden behind the lectern, high fives and hugs have joyously celebrated the first time these young church members took on the important new responsibility of bringing that light to all of us.

I wanted to share that joy with everyone as we officially recognize our new chalice lighting crew. At church, the older trained chalice lighters were called upon to pass the flame to welcome the younger students into this new role. Please enjoy these photos of this special church event.



Keiran representing the previously trained chalice lighters



Twila representing the new chalice lighters



Keiran passes a flame lit from the chalice to Twila, symbolic of passing the responsibility and honor of becoming chalice lighters



Our new chalice lighters gathered on the Pennington center lawn. From left to right: Zoe, Tessa, Lex, Twila, Mathew, and Audra. Not pictured, but honored in spirit: Zoey, Brian, Ty and Addie

April Schedule

April 1: Class for MS, Children's Chapel for younger kids, Easter Egg hunt after class

April 8: Regularly scheduled RE, OWL at First U Chicago, Mystery Friends begins

April 15: Regularly scheduled RE, Mystery Friends continues.

April 22: Regularly Scheduled RE, OWL at Hobart, Mystery Friends continues.

April 28: Spring Overnight – Harry Potter 2: The Chamber of Secrets (see next page).

April 29: Regularly Scheduled RE, Mystery Friends reveal at coffee hour. Talent show after church.

Harry Potter Spring Overnight 2: The Chamber of Secrets

Last year, church families gathered for a magical night of Harry Potter based family fun. It was such a hit we have decided to host it again! On Saturday, April 28, the families of First Unitarian are welcome to gather again for games, crafts, snacks, and movie. Parents, children and youth of all ages are welcome. Friends of church families are welcome with advanced notice, permission form, and hosting family supervision.

Bring your tents and sleeping bag—we will provide space, food and activities. You only need to bring what you will sleep on and in.

If you have a free standing tent we will help you set that up.

If you have a blanket to set up over chairs we will find a way to make that work as well.

If sleeping under the open air of the church is to your liking ... well, we will help fluff your pillows.

We will have basic food and drinks but feel free to ask if there is anything you can bring. Extras are always welcome!

April Worship Services

April 1st, 10 AM
Rise Again
Rev. Teri Schwartz

Loss, pain, and death are part of the natural world and the human condition. Yet, we also find healing, and new beginnings. In nature and in human life, we have loss—and sometimes, we rise again. On this Easter Sunday, we'll celebrate rebirth and resurrection in the natural world and in humanity, and the revolutionary challenge of Jesus' counter-cultural teachings about love and justice in the face of empire.

April 8th, 10 AM
Pulling Out of the Mud
Thom Thomas, Student Minister

If you have ever had your car well and truly stuck in the mud, you know how hard it can be to pull yourself out. Sometimes just walking through the world feels like your feet are stuck in the mud. On any network newscast there will be at least 5 things that will make you angry, or sad, or hopeless. Turning off the news doesn't help, so long as

you know the stories are there. This sermon is about getting yourself unstuck.

April 15th, 10 AM
Out of One, Many
Rev. David Schwartz

I heard one definition of the first element on the periodic table given this way: "Hydrogen is an element with one electron that, given enough time, turns into humans." A service exploring how complex forms emerge from simple beginnings—in the universe, and in our own lives.

April 22th, 10 AM
Earth day: Peril and Promise
Rev. Teri Schwartz

Earth Day started in 1970 and has since become a bittersweet occasion. We mark our gratitude for the planet that sustains us and we celebrate the ecological victories of the past decades. But much has changed since that first Earth Day 48 years ago. Dangerous climate change threatens the environment and other species, our very existence is at risk. How do we hold environmental devastation—past, present,

and future—in our hearts and minds, yet still hold out hope and work for the changes we that can?

This service will feature nationally-renowned UU guest musician, Jim Scott, composer of the Earth and Spirit songbook. Learn more and listen at <http://jimscottmusic.com/>

April 29th, 10 AM
Beyond Being Safe
Rev. Karen Mooney

There is an old adage: Ships were not made for the harbor. It is oft used to point people toward adventure and risk taking. You may have seen it on an inspirational poster next to something about teams (those things always come in groups). The posters may inspire us to take risks for our own success and increased abundance. What if the poster(s) inspired us instead to ask who are we willing to risks for? Risk taking is the unspoken core question around transforming

our criminal justice system as we live with the media infused fear that criminals are everywhere. Will we take risks that take us toward a more just and equitable world?

Rev. Mooney works with the Unitarian Universalist Prison Ministries of IL as they seek to bringing UU faith and worship to incarcerated people. She is honored to offer circles of care for those living in prisons and jails and supporting all those affected by incarceration. Karen is a life-long Unitarian Universalist who learned the art of church from her very involved parents. She has been educated far and wide working and playing, listening and walking with people. She loves that UU communities are places where you find people who are alive and seeking throughout their lives. She has worked as a chaplain, a congregational minister, an interim religious educator here at First Unitarian, and a web platform manager. Each one was a joy and difficult for different reasons.

Welcoming Our Membership Coordinator

We are delighted to introduce our new membership coordinator, Myles Brady Davis. Please give him a warm welcome!

The first two months of Myles's time with us will be focused on making connections: meeting with members currently involved in welcoming, past participants in the membership committee, and UU membership professionals at other area churches. He'll also participate in the new member classes on March 25 and April 15, with recognition of new members to take place during the May 20 service. As he gains a deeper understanding of the congregation, members, and the welcome process, we'll move toward the recommendation from the January visioning retreat to gather a team around Myles to map next steps for membership growth.

Myles Brady Davis is a Black, Trans masculine, two-spirit, person of faith. As a native Chicagoan raised in the Hyde Park neighborhood he grew up in a loving family that emphasized strong values and tenets of faith, inclusivity, and social justice. Following in the footsteps of his father, Myles continues in the pursuit of civil rights advocacy. His professional experience in the human service field ranges from Emergency Medical Science, Public Health, and Philanthropy. Most recently, Myles completed his tenure at Howard Brown Health, one of the nation's largest LGBTQQIA health organizations.

Myles has worked with various community based organizations including the Transformative Justice Law Project of Illinois, the governing board for United Way of Metro Chicago's United Pride Executive

committee, Pride Action Tank, Trans Lifeline, and the youth homelessness initiative undertaken by Miley Cyrus's Happy Hippie Foundation. Myles is a champion of the marginalized, consciousness, and LOVE.

In 2015, Myles was named on the distinguished #Trans100 list, a list that recognizes emerging and established Trans leaders from around the world, who are making extraordinary contributions to society. He also had the honor of being invited to the White House LGBTQ Pride

reception to meet President Obama that same year.

Myles has a keen ability to connect with people from all walks of life. His ultimate goal is to cultivate safe and healing spaces where all people can thrive, celebrate their individuality, and be empowered to pursue a spiritual journey.

Myles is married to the love of his life, Precious Brady Davis, a communications professional, diversity advocate, and keynote speaker.

Is This Your Year to Represent Our Church at a UUA Meeting?

Joan Pederson, President, First Unitarian Church

First U is entitled to send four delegates to each of two different upcoming UUA meetings, and other members may attend. Never been? Since they'll be relatively close by this year, it's a good chance to give one a try.

If you are a church member, or will be by the time a meeting takes place, you may be eligible to serve as a delegate. Download a nominating petition form for the meeting(s) where you would like to serve (CAUUC, UUA-GA) or get a copy from the church office or during Social Hour. Get signatures from 15 church members. Return the completed petition to the church office by the deadline on the form.

If there are more than four valid petitions for either meeting, the top four vote-getters in a congregational vote will become delegates and up to four more will become alternates. In rank order, alternates get the chance to replace delegates who cannot attend or must leave a meeting before its business is done. At GA, where delegates may serve either on-site or off-site, only on-site delegates may be replaced, and only by an on-site alternate.

CAUUC Spring Workshop and Annual Meeting

Saturday, May 12, 9 AM –3 PM

Countryside Church Unitarian Universalist
Palatine IL

The Spring Workshop: Collaboration on Leadership Development is at 9 am; the Annual Meeting is at 1 pm.

UUA General Assembly (GA)

Wednesday–Sunday, June 20–24

Kansas City Convention Center
Kansas City MO

Rich with opportunities for learning more about and improving skills in church-based social justice, leadership development, membership growth, and more; personal fulfillment through worship, small groups, music, and stimulating lectures; and engagement in plenary (business) sessions that advance the work of a denomination trying to encourage right relations within itself and its congregations while also engaging in work for a better world.

REGISTRATION AND REDUCED-RATE

LODGING ARE NOW OPEN. Registration: \$395 adult on-site, \$225 youth on-site, \$150 off-site until April 30; \$450, \$260, and \$175 thereafter. Rates are the same for delegates

and non-delegates, and are available for single days as well. Consult your tax advisor on the deductibility of GA registration, etc., if you are a delegate.

And wait, there's more:

**MidAmerica Region Annual Business Meeting
Wednesday, June 20, 4:30 PM
Kansas City Convention Center
Kansas City, MO**

With GA occurring in our region this year, and less than two months after the region's Annual Assembly is usually held, the

necessary business of our region will be conducted in Kansas City a few hours before GA formally opens. This year only, on-site delegates to GA will serve as delegates to the MidAmerica business meeting as well.

For more information about:

Registration, go to www.uua.org/ga/registration;

Becoming a delegate, write Joan Pederson at joanpederson@yahoo.com;

Issues addressed at General Assembly, write Marie Cobbs, Denominational Affairs Committee, marie.cobbs@att.net).

April Meetings and Events

**50th Anniversary: Screening of
*From Montgomery to Memphis***

04/04/2018 Wednesday 6:30 PM-9:00 PM
Chris Moore Parlor

Join the Unitarian Universalist Multiracial Unity Action Caucus Executive Committee and the Racial Justice Task Force for a film screening of *From Montgomery to Memphis*. This event honors the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Brother Martin Luther King Jr. Participants will be invited to share their stories about where they were during the week of April 4, 1968. For more information, please contact Finley Campbell at finleycampbell5222@comcast.net.

**Songs of the Chicago Freedom
Movement: MLK Anniversary Concert**

04/04/2018 Wednesday 7:00 PM
The Promontory, 5311 West Lake Park Ave.
First U members and friends have been invited the Addie Wyatt Center to a special concert and call to action on the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. In the tradition of the Civil Rights Movement, we will come together to mark this important day in history and to encourage and inspire today's continuing social justice movements. The concert will feature the music of Mahalia Jackson, the Operation Breadbasket Choir, Curtis

Mayfield, Mavis Staples, Jimmy Collier, and others performed by the Gene "Daddy G" Barge band, Maggie Brown, Harmony, Hope and Healing, and others. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased online at www.promontorychicago.com. Call the Addie Wyatt Center at 312-719-3740 for more information.

Criminal Justice Task Force Meeting

04/05/2018 Thursday 6:00 PM-8:00 PM
Build Coffee, 6100 S Blackstone Ave
This evening, City Bureau will host the Chicago Community Bond Fund at Build Coffee, in the same building as the Experimental Station. In lieu of its regular meeting at the First Unitarian Church, the Criminal Justice Task Force will attend this meeting. We will have the opportunity to hear a report from Chicago Bond Fund and discuss Chicago bailing practices with the Bond Fund and the journalists present. For more information, please contact Evan Freund at 773-624-0333 or evan17@evanfreund.com.

Community Renewal Society:

Day of Faith 2018 Training

04/07/2018 Saturday 10:00 AM-12:00 PM
Pullman Presbyterian Church, 550 E 103rd St.
Learn about the Community Renewal

Society's legislative priorities in our 2018 Platform for Renewal. You will receive the latest news from Springfield and an overview of our bills. Practice lobbying and leading meetings with elected officials in Springfield. Team captains will also be trained to lead lobbying teams for Day of Faith. This training will prepare you for CRS' Day of Faith at the Capitol but you are welcome to attend the training even if you are unavailable to join us on 4/17/18. [Register online.](#)

Auction 2018 - Jazz Café!

04/07/2018 Saturday 6:00 PM-9:00 PM
This year, our annual fundraising event features a Jazz Café, with the music of Tim Branch and Family and Meagan McNeal. Dinner will be catered by Noodles, Etc. Childcare and pizza for the kids! Wonderful prizes include numerous gems of Hyde Park and Chicagoland: Court Theatre, Shedd Aquarium, DuSable Museum, Pizzeria da Nella, Seven Ten Lounge, Lyric Opera, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Chicago Botanic Gardens, Urban Retreat, Elements Massage, and more!

Tickets are just \$10 each for adults; children attend free. [Buy tickets online until midnight April First](#), or buy them at the door. Thank you to everyone who has already donated already! If you've been meaning to donate, please do so by the April 1st deadline. For more information, please contact Cheryl Wegner at cherylwegner@sbcglobal.net or 773-715-6163.

First Forum: Reaching Resilience

04/8/2018 Sunday 11:45 AM
Chris Moore Parlor
At this First Forum, our speaker is Fred Carter, executive director of the Black Oaks Center. Fred is also a teacher of Permaculture, certified by the Rocky Mountain Permaculture Institute.

Fred will discuss how communities reach resiliency – by redesigning zones in our environment and our internal environment. Permaculture can be used as a frame to redesign resilient patterns in our lives.

For more information, please contact Richard Pardo at pardo.richard@comcast.net.

Global Studies Group

04/08/2018 Sunday 11:45 AM-4:00 PM

VOV Library

We invite interested members and friends to join us. Everyone is welcome! This week, our discussion will center on the threat of nuclear war. For more information, please contact Bobbi Campbell at rlammer@luc.edu.

Denominational Affairs Committee Meeting

04/10/2018 Tuesday 4:15 PM

RE Classrooms

First U's Denominational Affairs Committee generally meets on second Tuesdays of the month to educate and inform our congregation regarding social justice activities and events in the Chicagoland area. For more information, please contact Marie Cobbs at marie.cobbs@att.net.

Young Adults Happy Hour

04/10/2018 Tuesday 5:30 PM-7:00 PM

Woodlawn Tap, 1172 E 55th Street

First U's young adults will gather for our monthly "Second Tuesdays at Jimmy's," AKA the Woodlawn tap. Come join us for drinks and conversation. Jimmy's is cash only (there is an ATM on premises). For more information, please contact Christine Harrell at youngadults@firsttuchicago.org.

First U Christian Group

04/10/2018 Tuesday 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

Chris Moore Parlor

Welcome. Our meetings are open to all church members and friends—of any religious beliefs—with an interest in learning more about the Christian faith.

For the remainder of 2017–2018, the group will continue its study of world Christianity. First we will view the opening lectures of a Teaching Company course, *The History of Christianity in the Reformation Era*, taught by Brad S. Gregory, Assistant Professor of History at Stanford University. We will also begin a Bible study, focusing on the *Gospel of Matthew* and the *Gospel of Luke*. For more information, please contact Phiefer Brown at PhieferBrowne@comcast.net or Finley Campbell at FinleyCampbell5222@comcast.net.

U.S. Foreign Policy from Vietnam to 2018: An Evening with Doug Hostetter

04/11/2018 Wednesday 7:00 PM–9:00 PM

Hosted by Dolores Cross, 5532 S South Shore Drive

Doug Hostetter volunteered with the Mennonite Central Committee in Vietnam in the late 1960s in the middle of the war zone. He has been director of the Mennonite Central Committee's UN office and has served on peace delegations to conflict zones around the globe. Please RSVP to Dennis at denniskoehn@att.net by April 9.

Community Renewal Society's 135th Anniversary Celebration

04/12/2018 Thursday 6:00 PM–9:00 PM

Chicago Teachers Union, 1901 W Carroll Ave.

The Community Renewal Society's 2018 celebration will include a cocktail reception, music, dinner, and awards. The speaker for the evening is Rev. Dr. Eboni Marshall Turman, Assistant Professor of Theology and African American Religion at the Yale Divinity School, and the only womanist theological ethicist on the faculty there. She is one of Ebony Magazine's Young Faith Leaders in the Black Community, was included on The Network Journal's prestigious 40 Under 40 List, and was recently named as one of the Top 5 Young Preachers in America by ROHO. [Register online.](#)

Soup Lunch

04/15/2018 Sunday 11:15 AM

Hull Chapel

Soup Lunch happens every third Sunday of the month. Everyone is invited! This is a wonderful time for all members and friends to gather and learn a little more about each other. Please bring a pot of your favorite soup. You can bring it at room temperature and reheat it in crockpots in Hull Chapel.

Not bringing soup? Please consider contributing bread, salad, bread, drinks, or sweets, or offer to help with the coordination. For more information, please contact Lisa Martin-Eatinger, lisaeatinger228@gmail.com.

Exploring Membership: Second of Two-Class Series

04/15/2018 Sunday 11:45 AM–1:00 PM

This is the second of a series of two classes: an opportunity for you and Teri and David to get to know each other, talk about the roots of Unitarian Universalism and this congregation, and explore what "membership" means. After the class, if you feel moved to join, you can sign the membership book and be officially recognized by the congregation at the May 20th service.

For some folks, membership isn't a big thing. Perhaps you've been part of a UU church elsewhere, or active here for some time. For other folks, membership comes on a difficult journey—perhaps leaving another tradition, or wrestling with "coming to church" as a person who never has before. Wherever you are, you are warmly welcomed to join this class to explore membership, or to talk more with Teri or David. Please RSVP to Rev. David david.schwartz@firstuchicago.org.

The classes will be offered again in the fall.

First Forum:**Guns, God, and Governments**

04/15/2018 Sunday 11:45 AM–1:00 PM

Chris Moore Parlor

At this First Forum, learn how the brutal forces of apartheid were defeated by school children disseminating subversive ideas, passive resistance and music. Our speaker, Arthur Dibden, grew up in Southern Africa and his family eventually settled in South Africa. He served in the South Africa Navy and was in Johannesburg in the mid-1970s when the Soweto Massacre occurred (on his birthday).

For more information, please contact Richard Pardo at pardo.richard@comcast.net.

History of the Rise and Triumph of Neo-Racism in U.S. Culture

04/15/2018 Sunday 1:00 PM–2:00 PM

The Nature of Racism is an annual course with a different focus or theme each year. This year's course is a personal/historical analysis of the impact of neo-racism within the UUA, with some impacts that reach further. Sponsored by the Racial Justice Task Force. For more information, please contact Finley Campbell at finleycampbell5222@comcast.net.

**Concert: Of Fantasy, Joy, and Dreams!
The Music of Howard Savage**

04/15/2018 Sunday 4:00 PM

Sanctuary

A special concert featuring music by Howard Savage. Howard has been the pianist for our Cabaret, Emancipation Proclamation, Golden Troubadours, and other events, but the center of his life is composing classical pieces for piano, voice, and chamber instruments. His music is melodic and dramatic.

Howard has composed five songs on the poetry of Robert Frost for Joan Staples, mezzo-soprano, which will receive its World Premiere at the concert. In addition, there

will be some piano selections and participation of four singers, three of whom are First Unitarian church members: Carrie Hedges, Vivian Beckford, and Laura Finnegan. Carrie, Vivian, Laura, and Sean Harris of University Church will sing a variety of songs by several composers.

The pianist for this concert will be Peter Engel Storms, from Unity Temple in Oak Park. Peter will play Howard's piano pieces and accompany the singers. One of Howard's pieces, "Alone" with words by Edgar Allan Poe, will be narrated by Shirley Savage.

The concert is free and open to the public, but attendees are encouraged to make a free will donation. A reception will follow the concert in Hull Chapel.

First U Men's Group

04/16/2018 Monday 7:00 PM–9:00 PM

RE Resource Room

This group is open to men at least 18 years old. Men in the group come together to share their experiences, help each other work through problems, and identify opportunities to support the church and its individual members. Some discussion topic for meetings have been "Politics in Chicago and Illinois," "God Is a Question, Not an Answer," and "The Beloved Community." For more information, please contact Joseph Harrington at joseph_harrington@att.net.

Community Renewal Society:**Day of Faith 2018**

04/17/2018 Tuesday 6:00 AM (all day)

RE Resource Room

Bring justice to Springfield! Join us for prayer, action, and face-to-face visits with your legislators. Transportation will be provided from Chicago and the suburbs. Free buses depart at 6 a.m. All are invited to join. A pre-training on April 7 is offered – but not required. For more information, [download the flier](#). Please [preregister online](#).

First U Spring Clean!

04/21/2018 Saturday 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

Join us for a little fun and fellowship with members and friends as we help clean, paint, and organize our unique and beautiful worship and fellowship space and its grounds. Please share your plans to join us by emailing or calling Michael Knowles at office@firsttuchicago.org or 773-324-4100, ext. 10. We'll bring the coffee, donuts, pizza and paint. You just bring you!

First Forum: Home Energy Audits

04/22/2018 Sunday 11:45 AM-1:00 PM

Chris Moore Parlor

This Earth Day environmental program is sponsored by First U's Green Sanctuary Group. Our speaker, Jim Cavallo, is director of Midwest Energy Performance Analytics, Inc., and a volunteer with Faith in Place. His topic is "Home Energy Audits: Saving Energy, Lowering Utility Costs, and Improving the Environment."

Jim will show us how a home energy audit can uncover opportunities to reduce your home energy use and improve comfort. Energy audits examine the components of your home that use energy, such as your refrigerator or water heater, or fail to efficiently hold heat where you want it, such as poorly insulated walls or ceilings. Homeowners often mistakenly conclude that some components of their homes are losing large amounts of energy; with an energy audit they learn that the source of the inefficiency is somewhere else. For example, windows are often blamed for losing great amounts of heat, but in fact windows are rarely the source of significant energy savings.

We will discuss what you should expect from a home energy audit, and the speaker will take questions from the audience about particular issues or concerns.

For more information, please contact Richard Pardo at pardo.richard@comcast.net. or Ellie Hall at eleahall@yahoo.com.

Harry Potter Spring Overnight 2:**The Chamber of Secrets**

4/28/2018 Saturday 6:30 PM-

4/29/2018 Sunday 9:30 AM

Sanctuary

Last year, church families gathered for a magical night of Harry Potter based family fun. It was such a hit we have decided to host it again! On Saturday, April 28, the families of First Unitarian are welcome to gather for games, crafts, snacks, and a movie. Parents, children, and youth of all ages are welcome.

Friends of church families are welcome with advanced notice, permission form, and a hosting family's supervision.

Bring your tents and sleeping bags. We will provide space, food and activities. You need bring only what you will sleep on and in. If you have a free standing tent, we will help you set that up. If you have a blanket to set up over chairs, we will find a way to make that work as well. If sleeping under the open air of the church is to your liking...well, we will help fluff your pillows.

We will have basic food and drinks, but feel free to ask if there is anything you can bring. Extras are always welcome!

The overnight concludes at 9:30 am on Sunday morning. For more information, please contact DRE Beth Moss at dre@firsttuchicago.org.

Variety Show

04/29/2018 Monday 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

RE Resource Room

All ages! For more information, please contact Beth Moss, our Director of Religious Education, at dre@firsttuchicago.org, or Jeff Hamrick, our Music Director, at music@firsttuchicago.org.

First Forum:**American Immanence**

05/1/2018 Tuesday 7:00 PM

Chris Moore Parlor

We will be hosting a book discussion by Dr. Michael Hogue, Meadville Lombard Theological School, on his new book, *American Immanence: Democracy for an Uncertain World*. This event is hosted by Meadville Lombard, First Unitarian Church, and the Seminary Coop Bookstore.

In the book, Hogue opposes the dominant American theopolitical tradition, which has resulted in global social, economic, and environmental injustices, with a new form of political theology containing a radical democratic politics as the dominant feature.

Drawing from a dissenting immanent tradition in American religious and philosophical thought, he articulates a political theology committed to democracy as an emancipatory way of life. Rather than seeking to redeem or be redeemed, Hogue argues that the vulnerability of life today calls us to build radically democratic communities of responsibility, resistance, and resilience. *American Immanence* integrates and immanent theology of, by, and for the planet with a radical democratic politics of, by, and for the people.

All are welcome.

For more information, please contact Richard Pardo at pardo.richard@comcast.net.

Church Office Hours

Monday – Friday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
Saturday 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Co-Ministers' Office Hours

Rev. David Schwartz, by appointment on Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday

Rev. Teri Schwartz, by appointment on Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday

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