

SERMON TOPICS:

- April 6—The Woman Who Outshone The Sun
- April 13—Tri-State Alliance speaker
- April 20—Easter
- April 27—Chris Rothbauer returns

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Sermon Topics	2
Russian Officials Vow To Defend	2
Rummage Sale	3
“As You Wish” Discussion Series	3
Support Teams	3
Family Fun Night	3
Board Highlights	4
Patchwork Central’s Pancake Extravaganza	4
Upcoming Events	5

Fair Is Fair

When the Korean War—oops—“police action” broke out in 1950, I was a freshman in college. It was a given, among those of us of draft age, that we were justified in doing what was necessary to stay in school. Students who were classified as pre-clergy were exempt. So, guess what? Some of my fraternity brothers announced they intended to become ministers.

I was reminded of that event when I read a column in a recent issue of the *Wall Street Journal* authored by Nicholas Casey and Anne Joshua Mitnick and headed “Israel Taps Religious Men For Army Service”. It appears the citizens of that war-weary country, in a constant state of preparation for conflict with the surrounding Arab

countries, had had enough of draft deferments for their ultra orthodox neighbors who comprise about 8% of the population.

Israel’s parliament passed a law stripping ultra orthodox Jewish men of their exemption from military draft, long a disputed and politically touchy measure that stands to transform the country’s social and political landscape. Proponents of the new conscription law, which takes effect in 2018, argued that the ultra orthodox community has grown to the point where it must participate in the army and join the workforce to maintain a viable country. They can now avoid service if they study full time in religious seminaries.

The law’s supporters also view the 36 months of military service in the Israel Defense Forces, which is mandatory for other 18-year-old Jewish men in Israel, as a vital step toward a more equitable share of responsibilities of Israeli citizenship.

Some ultra orthodox Jews also reject the authority of the State or any of its institutions, saying their loyalty is only to God and the Torah. These people reject Zionism and refuse any formal recognitions of the state of Israel.

The vote represents a sea of change for the ultra orthodox community which makes up 8% of the nation’s 7.7 million. But fair is fair.

-Ed Howard

2014 CAJE Nehemiah Action

Join UUCE on April 10 at the Veterans Memorial Coliseum for this year’s CAJE (Congregations Acting for Justice and Empowerment) Nehemiah Action. Sign-In starts at 6pm and Action begins at 6:30pm.

This year’s causes are access to dental health care and access to mental health care. You can find more information in the church foyer or by contacting Tom Moor.





Sermon Topics

April 6— **The Woman Who Outshone The Sun**—Multigen play about the power of kindness. Suzanne Perrey Worship Associate.

April 13— Kelly Coures of the Tri-State Alliance will speak on the persecution of gay people during the Holocaust. Ed Howard Worship Associate.

April 20— **Easter Service**—Our own Chuck Meny will speak. Not your usual Easter message. Tom Moor Worship Associate.

April 27— Chris Rothbauer returns to preach. Sermon title **To Be Announced**. Suzanne Perrey Worship Associate. *Potluck following service.*

Russian Officials Vow To Defend Christianity Against “Godless” West*

*copied from *Church & State*, March 2014, page 20

During the Cold War era, the USSR was known for its promotion of “Godless Communism”. Times have changed. In the wake of the collapse of the Soviet state, Russia is now accusing the West of lacking faith in God. For the past several years, Russia has been inching toward a close alliance with the Russian Orthodox Church. In a December speech, Russian President Vladimir Putin praised his country’s values and slammed Western acceptance of same-sex marriage.

“Many Euro-Atlantic countries have moved away from their roots, including Christian values,” Putin said. “Policies are being pursued that place on the same level a multi-child family and a same-sex partnership, a faith in God and a belief in Satan. This is the path to degradation.” Putin also described Russia as a defender of “traditional values” against assaults from the West, asserting that a staunch defense is the only way to prevent Russia from descending into “chaotic darkness”. These remarks came

not long after Russia adopted laws prohibiting “gay propaganda” and making it a crime to “insult” someone’s religious beliefs.

The Washington Times noted that even though Putin claims to be deeply religious, he made no attempt to impose that faith on others during his first decade in office. But since his re-election in May 2012, Putin has catered to Russia’s conservatives, including overtly religious and nationalist factions. Following on the heels of Putin’s remarks, Patriarch Kirill I of Moscow, leader of the Orthodox Church, echoed Putin’s denunciation of the west. “The general political direction of the Western political elite bears, without doubt, an anti-Christian and anti-religious character,” Kirill said in comments broadcast by state-run television. “We have been through an epoch of atheism, and we know what it is to live without God. We want to shout to the whole world, ‘Stop!’”

Another church official, Archpriest V. Chaplin, criticized church-state separation. “The separation of the secular and religious is a fatal mistake by the West,” he said. “It is a monstrous phenomenon that has occurred only in Western civiliza-



Kirill and Putin: Defenders of the Faith? Photo from npr.org

tion and will kill the West, both politically and morally.”

While these statements are concerning, some observers say Putin may simply be pandering to religious interests in an attempt by the government to suppress Russian citizens who are rejecting the state’s messages and ideas. “This is the government’s response to modernized Russians becoming more defiant and independent,” Maria Lipman, an analyst for the Moscow-based Carnegie Center, told the *Times*. “The government is pitting the conservative majority against the liberal minority.”

The Rummage Sale Will Be Here Soon!

The long-awaited UUCE rummage sale will be held on Saturday, June 14, from 7am to 2pm at the church, with a bag sale from 1:30 to 2! Planning for the event is well underway, but we will need assistance from the congregation for, first, donations of items for the sale (anything but textbooks), and second, for volunteer help the week before and the day of the sale. Prior to the sale (the week of June 9th) we'll need people to receive and price items and place them in the sanctuary, and the day of the sale various jobs will be available to assist with the sale itself, beginning at 6am.

There will soon be a sign-up sheet in the church foyer, with times for volunteers are needed both prior to and the day of the rummage sale. For details, or if you have questions, you may contact Bev Tonso at 812 476-9235 or btonso44@att.net, or Sharon Dennis at 812 431-9148 or sdennis1.sd@gmail.com.

“As You Wish” Discussion Series

The Congregational Life Committee will present the third “As You Wish” discussion series on Sunday, April 27 at 12:30pm at the church, following the potluck lunch.

These are a series of programs dealing with issues related to the end of life, and the April offering will be about Long-Term Care: What Are the Options? Our own Mary Helen Weldy will discuss long-term care at 12:30, to be followed at 1:30 by a presentation on in-home and hospice care, given by Cindy Erwin from VNA Plus. She will address hospice care in the home, in long-term care facilities, and in inpatient hospice centers.

Future programs in the series will deal with organ and tissue donation, funeral choices and planning, and a final session in which attendees will be encouraged to consider their own end-of-life plans. Flyers with more details are on the welcome table in the church foyer.

We hope to see you April 27 for an interesting and informative session!

Support Teams

The Congregational Life Committee is forming support teams to assist members, friends, and their families in times of illness, injury, death in the family, or other circumstance which makes it difficult for them to attend to activities of daily living. Some services offered will be provision of meals, transportation, grocery shopping, running errands, child and/or pet care, and housecleaning, plus others. There is a form on the welcome table in the church foyer to fill out for persons interested in providing one or more of these services, indicating which type of assistance they would like to provide and the day(s) and time(s) they would be able to help. We will then keep these on file, to be utilized when someone needs aid. Questions? See Sharon Dennis, Teddye Thompson, or Bev Tonso.

Family Fun Night—April 11th

Join us for a night of food, fellowship, and fun on Friday, April 11th at 6pm at the church. Please bring a dish for potluck dinner and stay after for a life-sized Candy Land game.

There is a sign-up sheet in the church foyer. Please sign-up so we know how many to expect. All members, friends, and visitors are welcome!

This event is sponsored by the Religious Exploration Committee. For more information, contact Ashley Perkins, redirector@uuevansville.org.

March Board Meeting Highlights

In spite of the extreme cold and icy conditions, five members (a quorum) managed to make it to the Board meeting at the Church on Monday, March 3rd. Members present were Ed Howard, Bev Tonso, Chris Norrington, Jasmine Sturgill, and David Fentress. Ashley Perkins (ex officio) was also present.

Chris provided printed statements of income and expenses, calling our attention to several figures. Our gas and electric bill was \$623 for the church building and \$230 for the Chalice House. David volunteered to monitor the settings in the sanctuary so a minimum level of heat would be used when it is not in use. We ended the month with a net income (gross income minus expenses) at \$7,480. Total donations, other than pledges, stand at \$2,000, which at 75% of budget, is slightly ahead.

Our attendance in February was 28 on Feb 2nd, 35 on Feb 9th, 27 on Feb 16th, and 27 on Feb 23rd. The average attendance for the month was 29.

After listing the speakers and

topics for the services in March, Ed Howard, a member of the Worship Committee, said Kim Terry, who was to have spoken at the March 2nd service which was cancelled due to icy conditions, will be rescheduled.

Bev Tonso, Chair of Congregational Life Committee, said the series entitled "As You Wish" got off to a good start on Feb. 23rd with the showing of the film, *The Bucket List*. The next session is scheduled for March 23rd and will feature a guest attorney addressing other end of life issues, namely, wills and advance directives. She announced her committee plans to hold the annual church picnic on June 1st again at the Overlook Park in Newburgh.

As co-chair of the upcoming rummage sale, she said it will be a one-day event instead of two as previously reported. The date will be Saturday, June 14th.

Ashley began her report as RE Director by reporting her Committee is considering forming a support group for parents. A family night is

planned for April 11. She is investigating the chances of using Tri-State Child Care Staffing to supply us with child care providers in the nursery during the summer months when the university students are not available.

John Schaeffer, Chair of the House and Grounds Committee, presented two bids for the cleaning of the upholstered chairs and rug in the sanctuary. One was from J&S Cleaning Service for \$442; the other from Stanley Steemer for \$450. The latter volunteered to clean the foyer rugs at no additional cost. The Board accepted the Stanley Steemer bid.

Ed Howard, representing Linda Cates, conveyed her suggestion that UUCE collaborate with Bethel UCC in the operation of the food booth this coming October at the Fall Festival.

After weighing the pros and cons, the Board declined to accept her suggestion, but expressed a will to again rent Bethel's kitchen facilities for the preparation of our food.

Patchwork Central's Pancake Extravaganza



Featuring their Art & Company Spring Art Sale

April 5, 2014 from 7:30am to 11:30am
100 Washington Ave. 424-2735

Breakfast is \$6 for adults, \$4 for children and includes sausage, fried apples, juice, coffee & all-you-can-eat pancakes.



**Unitarian Universalist
Church of Evansville**

2910 East Morgan Avenue
Evansville, IN 47711
812-474-1704

Service on Sundays at 10:00 AM
Youth RE on Sundays at 10:30 AM



Board of Directors:

President	Ed Howard
President Elect	Bev Tonso
Secretary	David Fentress
Secretary Elect	Tina Sizemore
Treasurer	Chris Norrington
Treasurer Elect	Mollie Pharo
Director	Suzanne Perrey
Director	Jasmine Sturgill
RE Director	Ashley Perkins

Other Volunteers:

Youth Leader	Mary Helen Weldy
Building and Grounds	John Schaeffer
Stewardship	John Schaeffer
Communications	Chris Norrington
Social Justice	Open
Congregational Life	Bev Tonso
Worship Associates	Tom Moor
Newsletter Editor	Ed Howard
	uceeditor@hotmail.com
	Ashley Perkins
	www.uuevansville.org
Webmaster	
Website	

Upcoming Events & Activities

Fri, April 4: 7pm Drum Circle

Sat, April 5: 9am Play rehearsal

Sat, April 5: 10:30am Choir rehearsal

Sun, April 6: 9am Adult Discussion Group

Sun, April 6: 10am *The Woman Who Outshone the Sun*—Multigen Service

Sun, April 6: 3pm Parenting Support Group

Mon, April 7: 6pm Down to Earth support group

Mon, April 7: 7pm Board meeting

Thurs, April 10: 6pm CAJE Nehemiah Action

Sun, April 13: 10am Tri-State Alliance service

Mon, April 14: 6pm Down to Earth support group

Fri, April 18: 3:30pm United Caring Shelter spaghetti dinner

Fri, April 18: 7pm Drum Circle

Sun, April 20: 9am Adult Discussion Group

Sun, April 20: 10am Easter Service
Children's Easter Egg Hunt

Mon, April 21: 6pm Down to Earth support group

Thurs, April 24: 11:30am Brown Bag Book Club

Sun, April 27: 10am Service; *Potluck following service*

Sun, April 27: 12:30pm "As You Wish" Discussion series

Sun, April 27: 3pm Dances of Universal Peace

Mon, April 28: 6pm Down to Earth support group