

SERMON TOPICS:

- May 4—Be Happy Forever
- May 11—My Mother, Myself
- May 18—Being Your True Self
- May 25—TBA

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Sermon Topics	2
Reminder: Nominations & Pledges	2
Summer RE: What Brings You Joy?	2
Rummage Sale	3
"As You Wish"	3
Support Teams	3
Board Highlights	4
Church Picnic	4
Upcoming Events	5

Discrimination Against the Roma Persists

When I was a small child, wondering about the newly arrived wagons arranged in a field on the outskirts of our small Kentucky town, my parents told me the dark-skinned occupants, dressed in "funny clothes" were gypsies. They were not to be trusted and I should fear them, for not only were they a roaming band of thieves who stole horses, chickens, and whatever wasn't nailed down before pulling up stakes in the night and moving on, but sometimes they would kidnap small children. When my family and I moved to Evansville in 1962, a large old house near Sixth & Walnut was reputedly occupied by gypsies.

Today, we know them as "Roma." They seem to have been assimilated into American society and are for the most part invisible in North America. But that is not the case in Europe, where their growth is increasingly resented and discrimination against them is very much alive.

They have become a particular problem there, where, according

to a recent article in the *Wall Street Journal* (4/23/14), they are disproportionately uneducated, jobless, and poor. During World War II, the Nazi tried to exterminate them. One third are unemployed, 20% have no health insurance, and 80% live below the poverty line.

The Roma left India some 1,400 years ago, according to some estimates, and have adopted the various religions and languages of their new homes. From the earliest days, the semi-nomadic Roma were described pejoratively and regarded with fear, chased away or oppressed. Today, their most visible presence in Europe's capitals is as panhandlers or in shantytowns on the outskirts of town. Cher echoed public sentiment when she recorded a song about the gypsies—"tramps and thieves they call us, but after dark the men come around and lay their money down."

Now, a decade after countries with large Roma populations started joining European Union, the Bloc is aiming to raise their

standard of living. An EU Summit on Roma issues in Brussels this past month reported countries had made modest progress on early childhood education but listed problems with health, jobs and housing and said discrimination was widespread.

"Politicians are starting to be aware that they cannot continue to close their eyes on a not-so-nice situation," said Viviane Reding, a vice president of the European Commission, the EU's executive body. The EU in 2011 urged its members to adopt plans for helping the Roma with jobs, health, education, and housing. But plans varied widely and were often ignored. Local officials are terrified of a public backlash for helping this despised segment of their population.

But things are looking up. In December 2012, the EU made the plans a legal requirement and EU leaders say they are also earmarking billions in funding specifically for Roma.

-Ed Howard

Call to Attend General Assembly

This year, the UUA General Assembly (GA) is being held in Providence Rhode Island, June 22-29th. At the April meeting of our Board, President Ed invited each Committee Chair to submit the name of a committee member whom they want to nominate as a delegate. The Board will receive the names at their May meeting and select two delegates and an alternate delegate. Interested members may wish to visit the website: uua.org/ga for information about scholarships, volunteer opportunities, registration, and housing. UUCE is able to underwrite in part the cost of attending for our delegates.





Sermon Topics

May 4— **Be Happy Forever**—Julie Aegeter returns to preach. Tom Moor Worship Associate.

May 11— **My Mother, Myself** with Reverend Doddie Stone. Ed Howard Worship Associate.

May 18— **Being Your True Self**—Kim Terry speaker. Suzanne Perrey Worship Associate.

May 25— **To Be Announced.** *Potluck following service.*

Reminder: Nominations and Pledge Forms Due May 11

It is once again the time of year to nominate officers for the UUCE board for the next church year, which begins July 1, 2014 and will last through June 30, 2015. We ask that you nominate a fellow church member for each of the offices listed in the letter sent on April 24. **The deadline for submitting nominations and pledge forms is Sunday, May 11, 2014.**

Return your nominations to Ashley in the church office. Nominations will be forwarded to the nominating committee, who will be elected after the church service on Sunday, May 11, 2014. A slate, prepared by the nominating committee, will be elected at the Annual Meeting on Friday, May 23, 2014 (potluck dinner at 6pm, meeting at 7pm).

Religious Exploration Summer Fun Sundays: What Brings You Joy?

This Summer, the RE staff and church members are asked to share their favorite hobbies and activities that they enjoy with the children. The RE council wants our youth to recognize the need for community, and affirm the importance of families, relationships and connections between and among the generations. If you are interested in showing the youth a hobby or activity that brings you joy, please check the sign-up sheet in the church foyer for available dates. Please email me at redirector@uuevansville.org if you have any questions.

Peace, Love, & Happiness,

Ashley Perkins, Director of Religious Exploration

Rummage Sale

The 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. Please clean out those closets and basements and donate your items for the sale! If you wish to bring in your donations early, see Bev Tonso or Sharon Dennis. Otherwise, donations will be accepted Wednesday, June 11 from 5pm to 8pm; Thursday, June 12 from 1pm to 8pm; and Friday, June 13 from 9am to 2pm. Items will not be accepted past 2pm on Friday.

We are also in need of persons to help with setup and pricing prior to the sale, sales help and cashiers and baggers the day of the sale, and cleanup after the sale. We especially need more help assisting customers the day of the sale. A sign-up sheet for volunteers is in the church foyer.

“As You Wish” Discussion Series

The Congregational Life Committee’s fourth in the “As You Wish” discussion series regarding end-of-life issues will be held on Sunday, May 25 at 12:30pm in the sanctuary following the potluck lunch. This month’s topic is “Organ and Tissue Donation,” with guest speaker to give the presentation.

Future programs in the series include Funeral Choices, Pre-Planning, & Green Options, and As You Wish: What’s Your Preference? The latter and final session will be an interactive one, in which attendees will determine what they personally want with regard to advance directives, wills, long-term care, organ and tissue donation, and funerals.



Support Teams

Thank you to all who signed up to be a part of the UUCE support teams to assist members, friends, and families in times of illness, injury, death in the family, or other time of need. We will keep the forms you filled out on file, to be utilized when someone needs help. If you would still like to sign up, it’s not too late; forms are on the visitors’ table. And if you are in need of assistance—or know someone who is — contact Bev Tonso at 476-9235 or btonso44@att.net, Sharon Dennis at 431-9148 or sdenisl.sd@gmail.com, or Teddye Thompson at 402-2744 or t.thompson@wowway.com.

April Board Meeting Highlights

As a gesture of welcome to Spring, President Ed Howard opened the meeting of the Board on April 7th by reading "Daffodils" by William Wordsworth.

Treasurer Chris Norrington announced the receipt of a large pledge payment in the form of a stock gift from a member of the Church. He reported having received 75% of the budgeted amount for pledges. Since the end of March marks the point at which 75% of the year has passed, our rate of pledge collection is where it should be.

We have now made this year's annual payment toward refunding the Endowment debt incurred during the years we supported a minister by dipping into our Endowment Fund. If we continue contributing \$5,708 annually, it is estimated we will complete the restora-

tion of the fund in fiscal year 2021-22.

Sunday attendance for the month of March was as follows: March 2nd services cancelled by bad weather conditions; March 9th: 23; March 16th: 32; March 23rd: 37; and March 30: 28, for a monthly average of 30.

In her report as Congregational Life Chair, Bev Tonso reported having revised the Protocol when a visitor appears at the table in the foyer. Instead of signing a log book, the visitor will fill out a card. This will be followed up by sending a note. Bev also reported on the "As You Wish" sessions. Local attorney Glenn Deig spoke at the most recent session on wills and legal documents. The April 27th session will feature a speaker on long-term care and hospice. Her committee has compiled a database of members and the

assistance each will offer another member in times of trouble. She reminded everyone of the upcoming picnic on June 1st.

Ashley Perkins, RE Director, said she has completed an online workshop by Liberal Religious Educators Organization that will help her analyze the effectiveness of our past RE activities. She is also taking training in CPR, First Aid, and AED. An Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for April 20th.

The General Assembly is scheduled for June 22-29th in Providence, Rhode Island. UUCE is qualified to send two delegates and an alternate. President Ed invited each Committee Chair to nominate a member as a delegate. The Board will select from those nominated. The next Board meeting will be on Monday, May 12th at 7pm.

UUCE Picnic is Just Around the Corner!

Our annual picnic will take place on Sunday, June 1 at 10am at the Newburgh Overlook Park. There will be no worship service that day. Meat, iced tea, and water will be provided, but those attending are asked to bring a side dish, bread, or dessert, and a drink of their choice if they don't want iced tea or water. Also, please bring chairs for everyone in your party as seating is limited.

Again, there will be a talent show, coordinated by Marla Minton and Suzanne Perrey, so be thinking up your act!

Hope for no rain on June 1, and we'll see you then!



**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	Charles Luker
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, May 2: 7pm Drum Circle | Mon, May 12: 7pm Board meeting | Sun, May 25: 10am Service
<i>Potluck following service</i> |
| Sun, May 4: 9am Adult Discussion Group | Fri, May 16: 3:30pm United Caring Shelter Dinner (sign-up in foyer) | Sun, May 25: 12:30pm "As You Wish" Discussion Series |
| Sun, May 4: 10am Be Happy Forever | Fri, May 16: 7pm Drum Circle | Sun, May 25: 3pm Dances of Universal Peace |
| Sun, May 4: RE meeting following service | Sun, May 18: 9am Adult Discussion Group | Mon, May 26: 6pm Down to Earth |
| Mon, May 5: 6pm Down to Earth | Sun, May 18: 10am Service | Wed, May 28: 6:30pm Congregational Life Committee Meeting |
| Sun, May 11: 10am My Mother, Myself | Mon, May 19: 6pm Down to Earth | Thurs, May 29: 11:30am Book Club |
| Sun, May 11: Congregational Meeting following service | Wed, May 21: 7pm Gender Warriors presentation on Transgender Mental & Social Health | |
| Mon, May 12: 6pm Down to Earth | Fri, May 23: 6pm Annual Meeting | |