

**SERMON
TOPICS:**

- Nov. 1—Samhain
- Nov. 8—Freedom Indiana
- Nov. 15—Words that move us
- Nov. 22—Rev. Forrest Gilmore
- Nov. 29—Gratitude Journaling

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Animal Blessing

October 4 saw a dramatic increase in worship attendance - we had a great visitation of animal companions-dogs, cats, even a covey of homing pigeons. This was our annual service of Blessing of the Animals

The energy in the sanctuary was magic. We reflected on our principle calling us to acknowledge our place in the web of life. We brought each animal companion up, heard

his or her story, we celebrated their gifts, and we blessed them.

We were powerfully reminded that we humans are a part of - not separate from - the natural order. And, we were reminded that we have much to learn from our non human companions.

It truly was a Blessing to be in the presence of these remarkable beings.

-Tom Moor



Donation in Memory of Melveline Knight

The speaker from our September 20th service regarding civil liberties and security, Attorney Mark Miller, announced that in lieu of receiving his \$50 speaker fee, he wanted the money to be donated to the church in the name of his grandmother, Melveline Knight. Thank you, Mark, for your generosity and for speaking at our service.



Sermon Topics

Nov. 1—Samhain— multigenerational service led by Laci Tucker, Crystal Folz, Brian Sturgill, and Ashley Perkins.

Nov. 8—a representative from **Freedom Indiana** will speak; Ed Howard worship leader.

Nov. 15—Words that move us—Bill Hemminger will share some of his poetry; Tom Moor worship leader. Bring a poem that moves you. *Plate share goes to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.*

Nov. 22—Reverend Forrest Gilmore returns to preach; Suzanne Perrey worship leader. *Potluck following service.*

Nov. 29—Barbara Stahura will speak on **Gratitude Journaling**; Shelley Woodward worship leader.

Fall Festival Wrap Up!

Thank you to all who participated in the 2015 West Side Nut Club UUCE booth. We didn't make much money, but we all worked hard and came away knowing each other better. I think if we went through our membership/friends church directory, we'd find that almost

everyone at UUCE participated in some way.

Mark and Erin Bradley have graciously accepted the challenge of chairing the Fall Festival Committee for next year, and a few people have already offered to take part in the planning. Let's hope for good

weather and good sales next year!

Thank you again to everyone who helped this year.

Tina Sizemore
Ben Sizemore
Chris Norrington

*"Bless our food,
Bless our friends,
Come, Spirit, be with us.
May our hearts fill with
peace,
Let your presence
surround us.
Spirit of Love
May you bloom and
grow,
Bloom and grow for-
ever.
Bless our food,
Bless our friends,
Bless our lives forever."
-Jan Evans-Tiller*

Thanksgiving Dinner

Once again the Congregational Life Committee is sponsoring a Thanksgiving dinner for members and friends and their guests. It will be held on Thanksgiving Day, November 26, at 2:00 pm at the church. Turkey, dressing, and gravy will be provided, and those attending are asked to bring a salad, side dish, bread, or dessert to complete the meal. There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer, where you may put your name and how many will be in your party, and indicate what dish or dishes you'll be bringing. We hope to see many of you there for a happy Thanksgiving afternoon!



Updated Bylaws

The church bylaws have been updated. If you would like to receive a hard copy of them, please notify Ashley Perkins at aoa@ueevansville.org or (812) 474-1704. They can also be found [here on the church's website.](#)

Bathroom Fundraiser Update

Thanks to generous donations given so far, we are even closer to our goal of having Gender Neutral and ADA Accessible restrooms! Our goal is **\$6, 877**, and we are up to **\$4,491.75** as of October 12. If you would like to make a special donation to this fund, please contact David Fentress.

Goal: \$6,877



An Evening Like That

What a lovely evening it was, as approximately sixty participants enjoyed the film “A Wedding Like That” and all the other activities on Wednesday, Oct 21 at UUCE.

This fundraiser, put on by our Board of Directors, was designed to raise money for our restroom renovation fund, but it proved to be so much more.

The event opened with lovely live music which set the mood for something really special. Marla Minton on the cello and Suzanne Perrey on the piano treated us to several selections as the audience found their way into their seats. Then a special moment was shared by all as they performed “Memory” by Andrew Lloyd Webber.



Lovely music was provided by lovely musicians. Marla Minton and Suzanne Perrey gifted the crowd with music to be remembered.

Mark Dessauer was introduced to the group. Mark is the creator of the film that we were all gathering to see. He talked about his thoughts in writing the film and a little about its adventures on the film festival circuit. It is an honor to have a film shown in a festival and “A Wedding Like That” has been selected for about eight festivals already, having screenings from Canada to Arizona. This film is not yet available to the public. Mark’s permission for us to have this exclusive screening was quite a gift to our church for which we are very grateful.

Then, the main event, the film was shown to the crowd. “A Wedding Like That” is the story of two young women who decide to get married. Their parents are struggling, each in their own way, to come to terms with this turn of events. The film is both poignant and funny as it shows us their journeys laced with harshness, love, and confusion.

The film was followed by a question and answer session as Mark was joined by Gracie Strange, actress and Sharon Caudel, production manager for the film who also made comments about their experiences with the making of this film. Many people in the crowd expressed an interest in purchasing the film when it becomes avail-



Mark Dessauer who wrote and starred in A Wedding Like That speaks to the crowd about the film. Gracie Strange, actress and Sharon Caudel, production manager also speak of their experiences in the making of it.

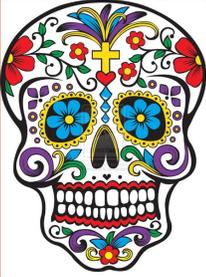
able. Mark estimated that would be in about a year and agreed that we could have it available for sale at UUCE.

A lovely wine and cheese reception, provided by the board, followed. Most of the participants stayed and joined in extended conversations about the film and its message. How fortunate we are at UUCE to have been able to experience an evening like that.



A crowd of about 60 participants enjoy the music, film and discussion.

Halloween, etc. by Sharon Dennis



What are your memories of Halloween? I remember it as a night when the children owned the streets. We would create our own costumes out of sheets, things pulled from our parents' closets, perhaps some odds and ends from the garage. We would leave the house at dusk and not return until 9 or 10 o'clock. Rarely did we see adults who were not in their doorways handing out candy, apples, cookies, and pennies.

Boy, have things changed. Rarely do you see children trick or treating beyond their own block and the children are always accompanied by adults. Instead they are celebrating at group parties and activities which are structured and safe. This is not a bad thing, but it says something about our society and the way children grow up today.

The other big change, though, is that it is now as much an adult holiday as it is a children's holiday. I recently saw the figure of \$6 billion as the total that Americans spent on Halloween last year. It was second only to Christmas for holiday spending. Adults have gone crazy planning their own parties and decorating their homes for Halloween. So here is the question...what are they celebrating? I propose that they are celebrating nothing other than an excuse for partying, an excuse not to let go of the excitement of their childhood festivities. Was Halloween ever a meaningful holiday? Let's explore.

The closest ancestor to Halloween as we celebrate it, was the Irish Pagan holiday of Samhain. This was held at the end of the harvest when the earth was dying for the season. It was believed that the veil between the world of the living and the dead was at its thinnest point for the year thus allowing spirits to return and visit with the

living. Food was placed on doorsteps to keep unfriendly spirits at the doorstep rather than inside the house. Masks were worn to fool the spirits into thinking that those wearing them were spirits as well. Irish immigrants brought this celebration to the United States. It morphed and changed over the years but did not take its form as we know it until the 1950's.

What about other countries and cultures? Many of them have holidays that deal with communication with the dead. Interestingly, most are around the same time of the year and have similar traditions.

The Cambodian Buddhists celebrate Pak Ben for fourteen days. The local people take special foods to the monks of their temple or pagoda each morning of the festival. The food is intended for their deceased relatives. They spread rice and sesame seeds on the ground for the spirits with no living relatives. On the fourteenth day, everyone comes together and has a feast called P'chum Ben. In China, they celebrate Teng Chieh. Their intent is the opposite of the Irish, they want to bring the spirits to their homes. To celebrate, they put water and food in front of pictures of their ancestors. Then they fill their homes and streets with lanterns to light the way for the spirits. The result is to celebrate the spirits and to help them find their way to heaven if they have not already found their own way.

The Buddhist celebration of Obon is celebrated in Japan. Special foods and water are placed in front of pictures of the deceased and lanterns are lit as in China. In addition, small lanterns containing candles are released into the sea and other bodies of water. As they sail away from the shore they light the way for the spirits to return to the place of the dead.

My personal favorite, though, is Mexico's celebration of Los Dias de los

Muertos. This holiday is a compilation of traditions from the Aztecs, Mayans, and the Spanish Catholics. On November 1 and 2, spirits of departed family members are invited to return to the homes of their families so they can once again enjoy time with their families.

As with other cultures, food and drink are placed on graves or alters but these are not limited to ceremonial selections. All the favorites of the deceased are prepared, especially for souls who departed that year. Plates of tamales and bottles of tequila are not uncommon, nor are cigars, mariachi music, decorated sugar skulls and humorous skeleton figures performing favorite activities. Graves and alters are covered with photographs and flowers both real and tissue paper. Families join together to decorate and feast all night as they wait for their loved ones.

The town of Pasquero, Mexico is especially known for its elaborate decoration of grave yards for this festive time of year. I had the pleasure of visiting this area one November and although the flowers had dried, the graves were still covered with orange mums and remnants of family tokens.

So, Halloween? It is fun for children. It is fun for adults. It has little substance compared to similar celebrations in other cultures. Enjoy your Halloween, but perhaps, take some time to remember those who have passed on. Appreciate the joy they brought to your life. Let's put a little meaning in our celebrations and spend some time being thankful for those who have paved the way for our lives.



AIDS Resource Group Graceful Giving



The holidays are quickly approaching, and with them, comes the time of year when we reach out to help others. We will once again be participating in the **Graceful Giving** program, which provides gifts to families affected by HIV/AIDS.

For only \$25, you can fulfill someone's holiday wish. Thanks to other generous donations, ARG can multiply your gift into

a basket worth over \$135.

If you prefer, you can shop for gifts and wrap them yourself. Contact Grace Wilson at gwiniger@argevansville.org to "adopt" a family or group of individuals.

Please turn in donations to Chris Norrington by December 1st.

Thanks for supporting this great organization that helps our community.

***Special Note:** The UUCE Children are holding a fundraiser. All proceeds will be donated to the ARG Graceful Giving campaign. If you are interested in purchasing dry confetti bean soup mix and/or handmade ornaments, please contact Ashley Perkins at aoa@uuevansville.org or anyone else on the RE Committee.

Additional Adult Programs Offered at UUCE

TED Talks Discussion Group: Join us on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 7:00pm beginning on November 5! Join in choosing, watching, and discussing intriguing TED Talks. "TED is a nonprofit devoted to spreading ideas, usually in the form of short, powerful talks. TED began in 1984 as a conference where Technology, Entertainment, and Design converged, and today covers almost all topics — from science to business to global issues." Everyone is welcome! For more information, contact Brian Sturgill at mrbbrian.sturgill@gmail.com.

Arts & Crafts Group: Erin Bradley is forming an Arts & Crafts group for people to come together to talk and craft. If you are interested in attending this group, please contact Erin Bradley at erinbradley52@gmail.com so we can figure out the best days and times to meet.

Patchwork Central's Holiday Art Sale

Friday, November 6 from 6pm to 9pm

Saturday, November 7 from 9am to 2pm

~ Free Admission ~

Unique handmade gifts by local artists

Including jewelry, paintings, greeting cards, ceramics, fiber art, and wood

100 Washington Ave, Evansville * 812-424-2735

30% of all sales will be given to support Patchwork Central's programming



Upcoming Events & Activities

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|--|---|
| Sun., Nov. 1: 9am Adult Discussion Group | Thurs., Nov. 19: 4pm Girl Scouts |
| Mon., Nov. 2: 6pm Down to Earth addiction recovery support group | Thurs., Nov. 19: 7pm TED Talks group |
| Mon., Nov. 2: 7pm Board meeting | Fri., Nov. 20: 3:30pm United Caring Shelter dinner (sign-up in foyer) |
| Thurs., Nov. 5: 4pm Girl Scouts | Fri., Nov. 20: COMPASS submissions due for December edition |
| Thurs., Nov. 5: 7pm TED Talks group | Sun., Nov. 22: Potluck lunch following service |
| Fri., Nov. 6: 7pm Drum Circle | Sun., Nov. 22: RE meeting following potluck |
| Sun., Nov. 8: 3pm OWL | Sun., Nov. 22: 12:30pm Pagan Study Group |
| Mon., Nov. 9: 6pm Down to Earth | Mon., Nov. 23: 6pm Down to Earth |
| Mon., Nov. 9: 7pm Strategic Planning Committee meeting | Tues., Nov. 24: 11:30am Book Club |
| Thurs., Nov. 12: 4pm Girl Scouts | Thurs., Nov. 26: 2pm Thanksgiving Dinner (sign-up in foyer) |
| Fri., Nov. 13: 6pm Church rental | Mon., Nov. 30: 6pm Down to Earth |
| Sun., Nov. 15: 9am Adult Discussion Group | Mon., Nov. 30: 7pm Strategic Planning Committee meeting |
| Sun., Nov. 15: Fair Trade Fundraiser orders are due today | |
| Mon., Nov. 16: 6pm Down to Earth | |



Unitarian Universalist Church of Evansville

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

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



Fair Trade for the Holidays

Need Chocolate? Coffee? Tea? Don't forget about Equal Exchange Products for holiday gifts or entertaining! By purchasing fair trade products, a portion of the proceeds goes to support the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. Fair Trade is a way of doing business that ultimately aims to keep small farmers an active part of the world marketplace, and aims to empower consumers to make purchases that support their values. See Chris Norrington for a catalog and buy some "Coffee for a Cause!" Orders are due by November 15.

Support Teams

UUCE has support teams in place to assist those members who need assistance with activities of daily living, such as grocery shopping, lawn care, meal preparation, etc., due to illness, death in the family, or other circumstance. If you or someone else needs such help, please notify Sharon Dennis, Bev Tonso, or Teddy Thompson.

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Secretary Elect
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Director
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