

**SERMON  
TOPICS:**

- Sept 6—Water Communion
- Sept 13—Jobs with Justice
- Sept 20—TBA
- Sept 27—Rev. Krista Taves

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## A Seussical Summer

In 1991, not long before his death, Ted Geisel otherwise known as Dr. Seuss was asked if he left anything unsaid. His response, "We can...and we've got to...do better than this."

We at UUCE have had a wonderful Seussical summer. Our children in RE have had lessons each week incorporating the fun, joy and inspirations of many different books by this fascinating man. In our multigenerational service we all enjoyed learning about the Yooks and the Zooks and the Butter-Up Girls as we read *The Butter Battle Book*. At the end of the book we were left to ponder the fate of the characters. "We'll see," it concluded. "We will see."

Known for his charming rhymes and fantastic characters, Dr. Seuss had a thoughtful and concerned approach to life that meshed well with the ideals of many Unitarians. We care about the world. We care about how people are treated. We understand that there are no guaranteed outcomes but we are willing to try things, to do things, to make the world a better place.

Theodore Geisel was not a popular child. His curly hair, pointy nose and immigrant parents made him a target for ridicule. Later at Dart-

mouth he was shunned by the fraternities. Classmates assumed he was Jewish, which he was not. He finally found his place at school when he became the editor of Jack-O-Lantern, the school's humor magazine and his forum for publishing cartoons.

In the spring of 1925 during Prohibition, Theodore and nine of his friends got caught drinking gin in his room. They were all put on probation, and he was stripped of his editorship. As a result, he began publishing cartoons under aliases including Seuss which was his mother's maiden name.

Although he eventually graduated from Dartmouth and went on to study literature at Oxford, he never did complete a doctorate. At the encouragement of a classmate (and later his wife), Helen Palmer, he quit graduate school to become a cartoonist. He was also very successful in advertising. He did, however, receive several honorary doctorates later.

Several possible stories have circulated as to the reason Dr. Seuss turned to children's books. As he was well known to enjoy making things up, it is not possible to know which story is true. His first children's book, *On Mulberry Street*, was turned

down by 20 or 30 publishers. One day in 1936 he had had it. As he was walking down Madison Ave, he decided to throw his book away. Just then he ran into a former classmate who was the Juvenile Editor for Vanguard Press. He went with him to his office and signed a contract. His career took off.

After writing several books, Dr. Seuss began to be concerned that children were not learning to read. Many believed that this was because they were bored reading about Dick and Jane. William Spalding of Houghton Mifflin's education division challenged Seuss to write a book that first graders could not put down. He gave him a list of 348 words and instructed him not to use more than 225 of them. The result was *Cat in the Hat*. It was published in 1957 and had sold nearly a million copies by 1960. More learn-to-read books followed.

Earlier in his career, in 1940, Seuss had published four books. His career was taking off but he was concerned about Paris being occupied and the "klanking tanks of the Nazis." He was struggling to draw Horton when political cartoons were on his mind. He spent the next several years as a political cartoonist mocking isola-



## Sermon Topics

**Sept 6—Water Communion—multigen service** Sharon Dennis speaker; Suzanne Perrey worship leader. This annual service is celebrated when congregants bring water – often from a destination from their summer vacation – or a special place near home like a lake, pond, river or stream – and combine them during the service. Please bring a canned good (s) that Sunday for the Food Pantry as that, too, will be a special part of the service.

**Sept 13—Jobs with Justice—**Shelley Woodward worship leader

**Sept 20—To Be Announced;** Tom Moor worship leader. The plate share this Sunday goes to the AIDS Resource Group

**Sept 27—**Reverend Krista Taves returns to preach; Ed Howard worship associate. **Pot-luck lunch following service**

## A Seussical Summer continued

tionists, Hitler, Mussolini, Tojo, fascism and discrimination. After the war he returned to writing children's books, but now they contained strong messages. Some examples are...

- *Yertle the Turtle* with a message based on the rise of Hitler
- *The Sneetches*, which was in opposition to antisemitism
- *Horton Hears a Who* suggests a parallel with two Japanese cities facing atomic bombs

- *The Lorax*, which promotes saving our environment. It was inspired by trees being cleared out in Kenya to make room for hotels and swimming pools
- *The Butter Battle Book* written in response to President Ronald Reagan's escalation of the nuclear arms race

Did Dr. Seuss change the world? Maybe. Did he change the way some people think? Probably. Did he do things that he believed in to make the

world a better place? Definitely.

We don't know what difference we will make in the world but we must continue to try to do better. We've got to. We must look for new ways to think about things. In Seuss's own words, "Think left and think right/and think low and think high/Oh, the THINKS you can think up if only you try."

Sharon Dennis  
Board President

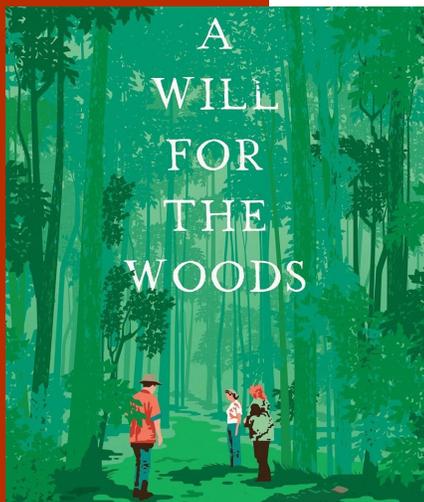
## "A Will For the Woods" Film to be Shown Soon!

Don't miss this one! On Thursday, September 10 at 6:00 pm in the Central Library Browning Events Room, the Congregational Life Committee will present an award-winning, stirring film, "A Will for the Woods." Admission is free, and the general public has been invited.

The film tells the story of Clark Wang, a psychiatrist, talented musician, and folk dancer, who is diagnosed with terminal lymphoma. While he continues to fight his disease, he makes plans for his eventual death by exploring green (environmentally friendly) funerals and burials, as he wants his last act in life to be a gift to the earth. This full-length documentary film explores his struggles, his joys, his research into the subject, his decisions, and his death. It also presents for the viewer facts and opinions about green funerals.

There is, of course, pathos in the film, but also humor, and it is far from being a depressing film about death and funerals; it is truly upbeat and life-affirming. Since we have no green funeral options in the Evansville area, this film is instructive and an important one to see, so that perhaps we can spearhead a campaign to make such funerals and burials a reality here.

Please plan to attend; you won't be sorry!



## Food, Fun, and Friendship

It is time again to gather in groups and have some fun. It is time to sign up for our next circle supper. The steps are simple and all members and friends can participate. Here's how it works:

If you would like to attend, complete a sign-up sheet in the lobby and put it in the box.

If you would like to host (not

required) write that on your sheet before you put it in the box.

At noon on September 6 the sign-ups are closed.

Hosts will be chosen by a random drawing of those who are willing to host.

Dinner groups are chosen by a random drawing of names.

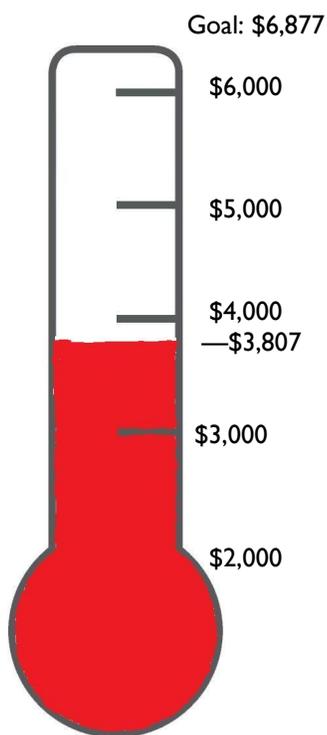
Groups will be notified.

The host will decide what main dish he/she will prepare.

Each other person will let the host know what he/she will be bringing.

At 6:30 pm on September 19 we all show up at our appointed places and have food, fun and friendship.

Ta Da!!



## Bathroom Fundraiser Update

Thanks to generous donations to the gofundme account created by Tina Sizemore, (<http://www.gofundme.com/rycdf5d>), we are now over halfway to our fundraising goal to provide money for gender neutral and disabled-appropriate bathrooms.

**However, we still need to raise approximately \$3,070.** The Board is looking into additional sources of funding to help raise the remainder, such as Faithify and organizations that serve the LGBTQ and disabled communities. If anyone has any suggestions regarding fundraising, please contact Shelley Woodward: [woodwardshelley@gmail.com](mailto:woodwardshelley@gmail.com). To make a direct contribution, please see David Fentress.

## OWL: Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education, Community Outreach

This year, the UUCE will offer the class **Our Whole Lives (OWL): Sexuality Education** for Kindergarten to Grade 1 (ages 5 -7). The program will be offered on Sundays, once per month in (8) one-hour sessions, beginning in the fall at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Evansville, 2910 East Morgan Avenue.

This course is part of a lifespan sexuality education program developed for use by Unitarian Universalists and others, which has received acclaim from both parents and participants alike. The OWL program is a values-based sexuality education program that embodies UU values, including the dignity of the individual, the importance of personal responsibility, and the essential interdependence of all people.

On August 9th, Nancy Higgs, Ashley Perkins, and Jasmine Sturgill hosted a Parent Informational Meeting to kick-off our OWL classes. We now have a full class for our workshops this year! If you are interested in learning more about the OWL curriculum, please visit: <http://www.uuevansville.org/religious-exploration/our-whole-lives-owl/>

We are overwhelmed at the support we have received and are excited about being able to offer this curriculum to families in our community!



# Game Night

Friday, September 25 at 6:00pm  
At Unitarian Universalist Church of Evansville  
2910 E. Morgan Ave. Evansville, IN 47711

Join us for a night of food, fellowship, and fun.  
Please bring a dish for potluck and games.  
Sign-up sheet in church foyer. Please RSVP.  
All members, friends, and visitors are welcome!

For more information contact Ashley Perkins, [redirector@uuevansville.org](mailto:redirector@uuevansville.org)  
This event is sponsored by the Religious Exploration Committee.

## Fall Festival Cooking

The cooking for Fall Festival is complete! Thank you to all who were able to help and to Bethel United Church of Christ for the use of their kitchen and facilities! We still need help to work in the booth this year. Please see Chris Norrington or Ben and Tina Sizemore if you can help.

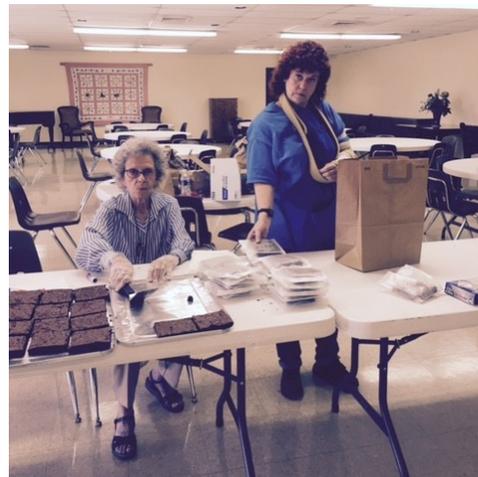


Above: Kimberly Moore cooking up some black bean soup

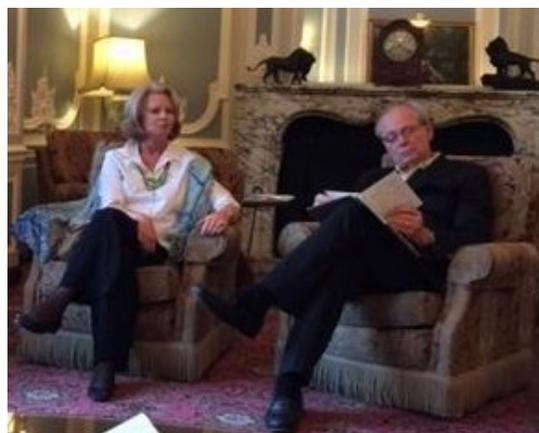
Below: Shelley Woodward and Ed Howard packaging brownies



Right: Mollie Pharo cutting bacon brownies



Above: Mary Jane Steele and Shelley Woodward packaging brownies

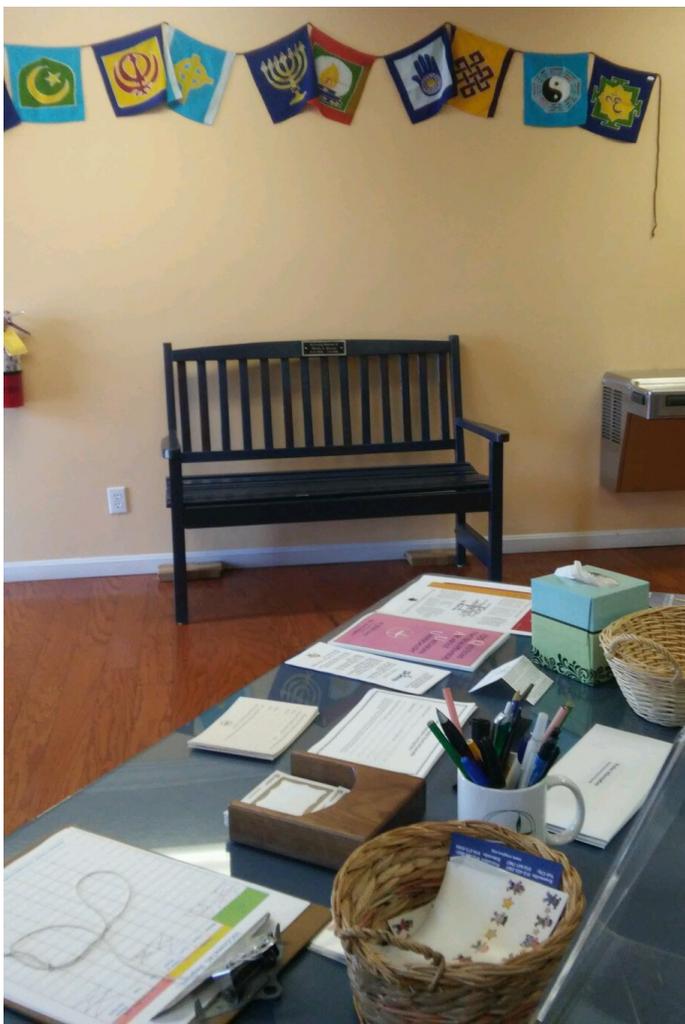


## A Fond Farewell to the Marty's!

We will miss our friends Alan and Marie -Paule, but we wish them well on their new life adventure!

## New Look for the Lobby

Thank you to Marti Warner for all the work and artistic flair that you put into making our lobby be more open and friendly. It is a pleasure to walk in the front door.



## Calling All Cooks

Hello all, I am collecting recipes. I hope to gather enough to create a UUCE Cookbook. Please type out your favorite potluck, holiday, cookie, vegetarian/vegan, gluten free, etc recipes and email [jas-minemichelle@gmail.com](mailto:jas-minemichelle@gmail.com) (subject line UUCE Cookbook, please) or give them to me or Brian at church. The price of the cookbooks will depend on how many recipes I receive. I am hoping to have enough to have the cookbook ready by the holidays so please send me as many of your favorites as you'd like! Truly the more the merrier.

—Jasmine Sturgill



## Plate Share Sunday

For many years now, our church has given back to our community with **"Plate Share Sunday."** As part of our commitment to social justice, UUCE has designated the third Sunday of the month for giving our plate collection to charitable organizations, both local and those that support Unitarian Universalist ideals. As a church family, we have donated thousands of dollars to help literacy, abused and neglected animals, the Crop Walk, helping to fight AIDS, Guest at your Table and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, and so many other worthy organizations over the past 12 years. Any funds placed in the collection plate on **Plate Share Sunday** not designated for stewardship, etc., will go to our organization of the month. Please be generous! We appreciate everyone's effort in making **Plate Share Sunday** a success. Thank you for giving back to your community!

## 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 Teddye Thompson.

## Upcoming Events & Activities

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Wed., Sept. 2: 7pm Board meeting   | Fri., Sept. 18: 3:30pm United Caring Shelter dinner (sign-up in foyer) |
| Thurs., Sept. 3: 7pm Church reserved for Sierra Club                       | Sat., Sept. 19: Circle Suppers (sign-up in foyer)                      |
| Fri., Sept. 4: 1pm OWL Committee meeting                                   | Sun., Sept. 20: 9am Adult Discussion Group                             |
| Fri., Sept. 4: 7pm Drum Circle   | Sun., Sept. 20: 3pm Goddess Circle                                     |
| Sun., Sept. 6: 9am Adult Discussion Group                                  | Mon., Sept. 21: 6pm Down to Earth meeting                              |
| Mon., Sept. 7: 6pm Down to Earth meeting                                   | Mon., Sept. 21: 6:30pm Congregational Life Committee meeting           |
| Wed., Sept. 9: 7pm Worship Committee meeting                               | Wed., Sept. 23: 7pm Worship Committee meeting                          |
| Thurs., Sept. 10: 4pm Church reserved for Girl Scouts                      | Thurs., Sept. 24: 4pm Church reserved for Girl Scouts                  |
| Thurs., Sept. 10: 6pm Showing of "A Will for the Woods" at Central Library | Fri., Sept. 25: 6pm Game Night (sign-up in foyer)                      |
| Thurs., Sept. 10: 7pm Church reserved for Sierra Club                      | Sun., Sept. 27: RE Committee meeting during potluck                    |
| Sun., Sept. 13: 3pm OWL Orientation  | Sun., Sept. 27: 12:30pm Pagan Study Group                              |
| Mon., Sept. 14: 6pm Down to Earth meeting                                  | Mon., Sept. 28: 6pm Down to Earth meeting                              |
| Thurs., Sept. 17: 4pm Church reserved for Girl Scouts                      | Tues., Sept. 29: 11:30am Book Club                                     |



### 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



## UUCE participating in CROP Walk

The CROP Walk is a local sponsored walk to raise funds for world hunger relief. It is an interfaith community event, with walkers from many different churches in the area participating. We'd like for some UUCE folks to walk. This event is appropriate for everyone in your family, including four-legged members of the family. The walk takes place beginning at 10:00 AM on Saturday Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>. It begins at Simpson United Methodist Church (2201 W. Illinois St.) and lasts about 2 ½ miles. If you are interested in walking or sponsoring, please see David Fentress (812-473-0314, [df27@evansville.edu](mailto:df27@evansville.edu)).



## Coffee Order

Place your order for Equal Exchange Fair Trade chocolate, cocoa and coffee by the 15th of the month. Coffee prices average \$8-\$10 per 10oz package plus shipping. Your purchase supports the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. Contact Chris Norrington for details.

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