



Unitarian Universalist Church of Tippecanoe County

333 Meridian Street - West Lafayette, Indiana 47906 - uuctc.org

December 21, 2018



Kirsten Reynolds

Guild of the Gods

Winter Solstice Choir

Winter Solstice December 21, 2018

Welcome - The winter solstice, the day the "sun stands still," marks the longest night and the shortest day of the year, and it comes either on December 21st. Celebrations honoring the winter solstice as a moment of transition and renewal date back thousands of years and occur among many people on every continent. -

Creating the Circle

I call upon the spirits of Earth, Foundation of the world,
please lend your strength to all who would enter our circle.
I call upon the spirits of Air, breath of the world, please
lend your inspiration to all who would enter our circle.
I call upon the spirits of Fire, spirit of the world, please lend
your passion to all who would enter our circle.
I call upon the spirits of Water, life of the world, please
lend your empathy to all who would enter our circle.
We ask these blessing so that all who would enter our
circle feel safe and open on this the
Longest night.

The Ritual:

In the center of the spiral a little light glows. Walking the spiral, we light our individual light from the Great One Universal Light. Then as we return from our visit to the Universal, we place our little light along the spiral path, to help light the way for others, and to combine our light with others to create a beautiful spiral garden. We walk in love and we walk one at a time. We pray for one another's lives as we participate in this celebration together.

I am Sending you light (Melanie DeMore)

Chorus

I am sending you light to heal you; to hold you.
I am sending you light to hold you in love.
No matter where you go; no matter where you have
been
You will never walk alone; I feel you deep within
No matter what you feel or what you choose to show

I am always there for you and so I want you to
know
I walk the path with you go slow dear one don't
hurry
I 'll go just like you need to go; there is no need
to worry

Repeat the chorus as the mood moves

"Value the Dark" (Patricia Montley)

On Solstice Eve, value the dark. On this longest night of the year, before the light overcomes the dark, sit in the dark (alone or with others) and think about the importance of darkness. Bless mushrooms that grow in the dark and honeysuckle that sends its luscious scents into the night. Be grateful for the darkness that soothes us to sleep, the darkness that animals require for hibernation. Give thanks for sheltering dark places: the rich earth where seeds germinate, the caves that harbored our ancient ancestors (and where some of our sun gods were born), the cellars that keep us safe from tornadoes, the wombs that provide our first nourishment. Acknowledge the darkness of suffering, which can deepen our appreciation of life and strengthen our connection to one another.

Chant "We Will Carry Love"

Readings #543 from





hymnal "Winter"

Let us not wish away the winter. It is a season to itself, not simply the way to spring.

*When trees rest, growing no leaves, gathering no light,
they let in sky and trace themselves delicately
against dawns and sunsets.*

The clarity and brilliance of the winter sky delight.
The loom of fog softens edges, lulls the eyes and ears of the quiet, awakens by risk the unquiet. A low dark sky can snow, and aggregate power. Snow invites to contemplation and to sport.

Winter is a table set with ice and starlight.

Winter dark tends to warm light; fire and candle;
winter cold to hugs and huddles; winter want to gifts and sharing;
winter danger to visions, plans, and common endeavoring - and the zest of narrow escapes;
winter tedium to merry-making.

Let us therefore praise winter, rich in beauty, challenge and pregnant negativities.

Music: "Starhawk Song"

Reading #542, from hymnal, "Solstice"

Again did the earth shift
Again the nights grow short,
And the days long.
And the people
Of the earth were glad
And celebrated
Each in their own ways.

Chant: Round and Round, Unknown Author

Poem, "Winter", by Rudolf Steiner,

To carry spirit light into world-winter-night
My heart is ardently impelled,
That shining seeds of soul
Take root in grounds of worlds
And Word Divine through senses' darkness
Resounds, transfiguring all life.

Chant: "Russian Hymn to the Earth" Russian Folk Song

Chant: She's Been Waiting Author Unknown

Reading #551, "Earth Teach Me"

Earth teach me stillness
as the grasses are stilled with light

*Earth teach me suffering
as old stones suffer with memory.*

Earth teach me caring
as parents who secure their young.

*Earth teach me courage
as the tree which stands all alone.*

Earth teach me limitation
as the ant which crawls on the ground.

*Earth teach me freedom
as the eagle which soars in the sky.*

Earth teach me resignation
as the leaves which die in the fall.

*Earth teach me regeneration
as the seed which rises in the spring.*

Earth teach me to forget myself
as melted snow forgets its life.

*Earth teach me to remember kindness as dry fields weep
with rain.*

**Chant: Let the Way, (Abigail McBride, arr
P.B. Hinkle)**

**Earth Mother Chant: Mother I feel you
under my feet**

WINTER SOLSTICE (Rudolf Steiner)

Behold the Sun
at midnight.
Build with stones
On lifeless ground.
Find in decline,
In death's night,
Creation's new beginning,
Morning's youthful night.
The heights reveal
The gods' eternal word.
The depths guard
The peaceful treasure.
Living in darkness,
Create a Sun.
Weaving in matter,
Know Spirit's delight.



**Chant: We are a circle (author
unknown)**

**Chant: Light Is Returning, by
Charlie Murphy,**

**Sacred Circle Song Laurence
Cole**

Note additional songs may be
song until all has had a chance to walk the spiral.

Closing the Circle

I thank the spirits of Earth, Foundation of the world,
for the strength you lent to all who entered our circle.

I thank the spirits of Air, breath of the world, for the
inspiration you lent to all who entered our circle.

I thank the spirits of Fire, spirit of the world, for the
passion you lent to all who entered our circle.

I thank the spirits of Water, life of the world, for the
empathy you lent to all who entered our circle.

We thank the spirits for these blessings, please help
and guide us in carrying the hopes, and prayers from
tonight into the new year.

UU CHURCH STAFF

Rosemary Morrison, Invited Minister
Nicole McCabe, Director of Religious Exploration
Janice Brennan, Musician
Va'Linda McBride, Office Administrator
Christina Wright, Nursery Coordinator

UU CHURCH OF TIPPECANOE COUNTY

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Web Site, calendar, sermons, on-line link to
Lighted Chalice Newsletter. uuctc.org
Webspinners: Steve Moss & Alice Pawley
RE Website regluu.wordpress.com

THE MERIDIAN UPDATE WEEKLY BULLETIN

Sunday Forum 9:00 a.m.; Sunday Service & Religious Exploration Classes 10:30 a.m. Nursery & Childcare Available.

Sunday, December 23rd, 9:00AM, Forum

Cancelled

Sunday, December 23rd, 10:30AM, Service

Speaker: **Dianna Poindexter**

Topic: **Forrest Church: Family Christmas Homily**

CALENDAR

DECEMBER 23RD-DECEMBER 30TH

Sunday, December 23

- 9:00 AM Forum (101)
- 10:30 AM Worship & RE
- 10:30 AM Youth Meeting (6th-12th graders)

Monday, December 24

- 7:30 AM Tai Chi Qi Gong (FH)
- 12:00 PM Meridian AA (FH & K)
- 7:00 PM AA Spiritual Experience (101/103)
- 7:00 PM UUCTC Candlelight Service (S,FH, K)

Tuesday, December 25

- Christmas Day
- UUCTC Office is closed (Christmas Day)
- 12:00 PM Meridian AA (FH & K)

Wednesday, December 26

- UUCTC Administrative office is closed
- 7:30 AM Tai Chi Qi Gong (FH)

Thursday, December 27

- UUCTC Administrative office is closed
- 5:00 PM West Lafayette Zen Group (M)

Friday, December 28

- UUCTC Administrative office is closed
- 7:30 AM Tai Chi Qi Gong (FH)
- 12:00 PM Meridian AA (FH & K)

Saturday, December 29

- UUCTC Administrative office is closed
- 8:00 AM West Lafayette Zen Group (M)

Room Legend Key

S—Sanctuary, FH —Fellowship Hall, M —Meditation Room

Sunday, December 24th, 7:00 PM, Candlelight Service

Speaker: **Kat Braz**

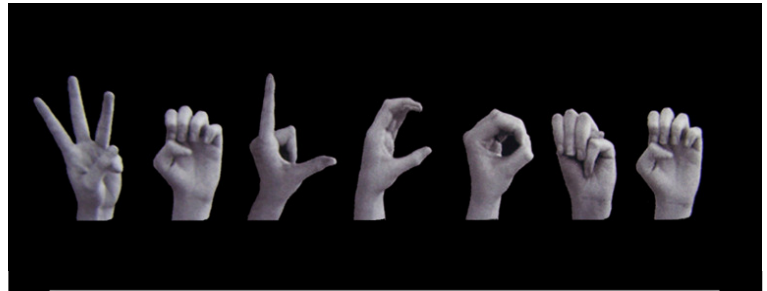
Sunday, December 30th, 9:00AM, Forum

Cancelled

Sunday, December 30th, 10:30AM, Service

Speaker: **Neelu Chawla**

Topic: **Why Everyday Integrity Matters: Notes on an American Hindu's Love for the Truth**



WELCOME



CHILD AND YOUTH RELIGIOUS RE Calendar: Nicole McCabe, dre@uuctc.org

I just want to give a huge thank you to everyone who participated, protested, danced, sang, played an instrument, rehearsed, did a reading, reported, shared a poem or story, rocked out, made a poster, helped manage everything, helped with sound and stage set up, helped keep things on track, filmed, shared ideas, found my dongle, etc. etc. etc. for the 2018 holiday program. I couldn't be prouder of our talented youth, volunteers, families, community, and congregation. What a beautiful display of love and hope!



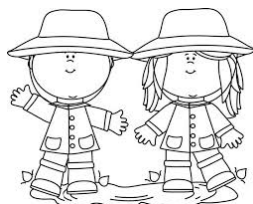
NURSERY

Christina Wright, Nursery@uuctc.org

As the weather turns chilly each year, I find myself yearning to hibernate. Warm and cozy is a preferred condition for me at this stage of my life.

As a parent, I have to remind myself often of my childhood. We would bundle up and spend as much time as possible playing in the rain, snow, or ice. There were very few days that we ever stayed indoors due to bad weather. Our children will thrive with similar opportunities.

“Encouraging a child to go outside in all weather builds resilience, but more importantly it saves them from spending their life merely tolerating the “bad” days in favor of a handful of “good” ones - a life of endless expectations and conditions where happiness hinges on sunshine.” Quote from Wilder Child Facebook group.



EVENTS

THANK YOU!

"Individual commitment to a group effort—that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work." --Vince Lombardi

No RE
December 23rd, 24th, & 30th

Candlelight Service
Dec. 24th at 7pm

No Forum
Dec. 23rd & 30th

UUCTC Administrative Office Closed
December 25, 2018 to January 4, 2019

UUCTC SJ Jan. 2019
Will collect items to donate to the YWCA Domestic Violence Shelter. Please see member of the Social Justice for needed items

Save
the
Date

**Saturday,
Feb. 23, 2019
annual church
Service Auction!
Details coming soon.**