



# First Unitarian News

First Unitarian Society of Chicago 5650 S. Woodlawn Ave., Chicago IL 60637 (773) 324-4100

## Both Sides

### Rev. Nina Grey, Senior Minister

On the incarnation and reincarnation of love...

"We enter life in a mystery and leave it in a mystery. Joy comes to us beyond our expectations and difficulties beyond our imagining, and all our lives we are upheld by a



power we do not fully understand. Give us the faith that if we persist we shall be glad of life." This prayer, written by another whose name I don't recall, reminds me that we live on the brief bridge of life swaying in vulnerability between the common yet unfathomable experiences of birth and death. If the Universalists were right, that power is Love....if Alice Walker was right, that we find love in church because the people bring love in....if the Christian story was right, that when two or three or more are gathered, there will be the hope of love....then these are the reasons

for worship, these are the reasons for celebrations, and these are the reasons for religious community.

Courage, love, hope, possibility, generosity, peace....these are the promises in a season of yearning and lights shining in darkness. Each winter we articulate these promises in our holiday celebrations, of Christmas, the Solstice, Chanukah, and Kwanzaa, through songs, stories, legends, and mostly through our faithful presence. And it is not only our presence in our sanctuary that speaks these mysterious yet fully human truths. It is also through our presence at the bedside of a friend who is ill. It is also the offer of a trip to the grocery store when the sidewalks are icy. It is also that phone call that we had the thought to make and someone else needed just then. It is also the email we send, or the effort, whatever it is, that we make on behalf of a bit more light, it is also the decision that we make to get involved and maybe generate a bit more hope.

It is also that smile of recognition and appreciation on the face of someone too weak to give more than a smile but very generous with that smile. It is also the welcome we give to the stranger who enters the doors of our sanctuary, and the hospitality we offer to those we recognize but have yet to understand. The stories and songs and acts of faithfulness retell the hope that love and joy can enter in again, courage show its face again, healing of body or mind or spirit or family or even healing of society may be possible again.

"We need one another. All our lives we are in need, and others are in need of us." These words of George O'dell remind me that in the face of gathering darkness and cold, and the light of these season's celebrations, we mostly need the light of each other. In the midst of love's regeneration or its loss, hope's fulfillment or its disappointment, primarily we need one another. May the light of our presence for and with each, and may the light of our willingness to witness to love's enduring strength reveal the truth of Love's power.

In faith, with love,

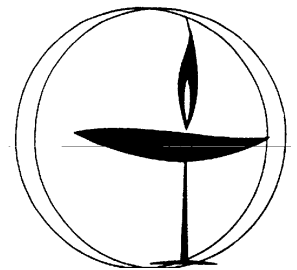
*Nina*

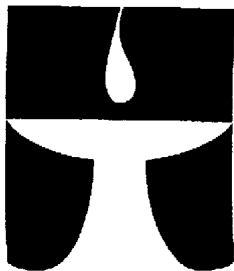
Dec. 2006

Christmas Eve  
Service - p.9

Holiday Craft  
Fair - p.5

Holiday Music -  
p.7






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### Church Office Hours

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 10:00 am - 9:30 pm

Wednesday - 11:00 am - 9:30 pm

Saturday 9:30 am - 6:30 pm

Contact the church office by calling (773) 324-4100  
 Administrator Rick Brown's email address:  
[office@firsttuchicago.org](mailto:office@firsttuchicago.org)

### Church Administrator's Consulting Hours

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Wednesday, 11:00 am to 2:00 pm

### Minister's Office Hours

Rev. Nina Grey

[revgrey@firsttuchicago.org](mailto:revgrey@firsttuchicago.org)

Mon. Day off

Tues. 1 - 5 pm

Wed. Study & sermon prep.

Thurs. 2 - 6 pm

Fri. am Study & sermon prep.

Fri. pm 1 - 5 pm

Also by appointment

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Danielle Gerrior

Director of Religious Education

Office hours: Tues. - Thurs. 9 to 3

## Committee Meetings this Month

Communications - Tues. Dec. 12 at 7:00 p.m.

Executive Comm. - Wed. Dec. 6 at 5:30 p.m.

Mgmt Consulting - Tues. Dec. 12 at 6:30 p.m.

9/11 Discussion Grp. - Sun. Dec. 10 at 6:30 p.m.

Pastoral Care - Fri. Dec. 8 at 6:30 p.m.

Program - Tues. Dec. 5 at 7:00 p.m.

Property - Tues. Dec. 5 at 7:30 p.m.

Social Justice - Thurs. Dec. 14 at 7:15 p.m.

Trustees - Thurs. Dec. 21 at 7:00 p.m.

Worship & Music - Thurs. Dec. 7 at 7:00 p.m.

## First Unitarian News

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## From the Crumbling Pillar

By Bette Sikes

Congregation President

Our Board of Trustees has been productive in recent meetings. At the November meeting the board chose a new Secretary for the Church – **Evelyn Johnson**, who has also been appointed Parish Clerk.



The Parish Clerk keeps track of our membership after a person signs the Membership Book. Evelyn will note whether you have paid your annual required \$50 each to maintain your voting membership. At the end of January 2007, she will report to the Unitarian Universalist

Association on how many voting members the church has.

Board members have accepted liaison assignments to church bodies.

- \* Committee on Ministry: **Bette Sikes**
- \* Committee on Congregational Participation: **Cindy Pardo**
- \* Communications and Worship & Music: **Joe Cherry**, who also is Webmaster
- \* Finance Committee & RE Council: **Diana Gray**
- \* Property: **Hank Henriques**
- \* Program Council: **Joanne Kent**
- \* CLARC: **Pat MacClarence**
- \* Social Justice Council: **Ken Schug**
- \* Investment: **Stephen Stern**
- \* Environmental Study Group: **Irene Vitullo**

**Andrew Greenlee** has not yet chosen the group he will work with.

The Board accepted reports from the Membership Committee and the Social Mission Outreach Task Force, which has a new convener: **Lara Tushla**. Remember the Third Sunday Social Mission Offering for December 17 for the Hyde Park/Kenwood Food Programs.

Remember to let me know what's on your mind. Both negative and positive feedback are wanted.

May we all have a blessed holiday season this year.

## Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

On Wednesday, December 13, the Christmas pageant rehearsal will be held in the sanctuary at 6:00 p.m. Pizza will be served for young actors and their parents. Please consider taking part in this wonderful event! Speaking and silent roles are widely available, and no memorization is required. Of course it is required that all participants can be at the December 17th service, when the pageant will be performed. All participating children are asked to arrive at 9 a.m. on the 17th. Costumes will be provided. If you wish to participate and truly cannot make the rehearsal on the 13th, please contact Danielle.

## RE Reflections

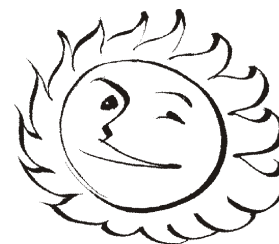
By Danielle Gerrior

Director of Religious Education

A minister friend of mine once said that he believed the primary purpose of religions is to mark the passage of time in a meaningful way. The longer I sit with that idea, the more I like it. We may go weeks without much noticing the time pass and then boom! It's July 4th, or Halloween, or, say New Year's, and we all think, "again? How could it be this time of the year again?"

Perhaps there is no time in our culture when this is more true than in the holidays surrounding the winter solstice. Advent, Yule, Diwali, Christmas, Channukkah, New Year's, Kwanzaa, often Ramadan - all of these important days and seasons come rushing at us all at once, and we stop our ordinary lives to receive them. We eat special foods, sing special songs, wear special colors and tell special stories.

It's easy, in fact, to get overwhelmed by all the things to do during the holiday season. It's important to choose activities well, so that we don't become too overwhelmed, and therefore lose the joy of this time. It's also important to take the time to do enough of the traditional things that remind us that the earth has made another whole journey around the sun and here we are, together, again.



## Reports from the Environmental Study Group

### By Diana Gray:

Gentle, serious, and uncompromisingly honest, Jared Diamond presented the basic tenants of his latest book, *Collapse: Why Societies Choose to Succeed or Fail*, at the University of Chicago Social Services Administration lecture series on October 26, 2006. His examples of past societal collapses from ill use of the environment, climatic change, hostile neighbors, loss of support from friendly alliances, or the societal response to any or all of these serve as warnings and lesson guideposts for our current globalized world community.

When **Ellen La Rue** and **Jon Rice** solicited members for the newly revitalized Environmental Task Force after a Sunday Service this autumn, I was just finishing reading Diamond's work. I think I was the first to put my name on the list. Since joining with the group, to my surprise, I have found participation in this group as much a spiritual journey as an intellectual one. During our first meeting, we each shared our motivation for being there. It thrilled me to learn of the deep love of nature since childhood that many reported. We quickly reached consensus that we were not focusing on the problem of "how to save the earth" but rather "how to change human behavior if humans are to continue on the earth".

Our wonderful Meadville Lombard divinity students introduced the spiritual view that our source of existence derives from the "stuff of stars," linking us through the eons of the universe and evolution of the earth. It is in us, part of us, and what makes us possible. We have been viewing *The Great Story* as presented by Michael Dowd, former pastor, and Connie Barlow, science writer, who present the history of the universe as both a sacred and a scientific story. Discussions following the DVD segments we have watched on Sunday evenings are animated. Many of us attended one of the recent screenings in Hyde Park of *An Inconvenient Truth* (Al Gore's documentary on global warming). As a group, we are seeking to intertwine learning and seeking with positive action. Look for energy and environmental tips and action opportunities from our group in the future.

On a closing note, consider the climatic changes of our world -- so gradual we may fail to notice year to year -- but with our technology, we can juxtapose the here and now with the then. Check out Niagara Falls 100 years ago. Hmmmmmmm

### By Jon Rice

Concerning the Environmental Study Group, we had our first action this past Saturday. We joined a group of environmentalists sponsored by the Field Museum of Natural History, going to Beaubien Woods where we helped in the restoration of the woods. We sawed unwanted trees down, burned debris and planted prairie grass seeds. We have been invited to do this with the Field Museum every first Saturday of the month, from 9am until noon. We have also been in contact with James Wagoner, Director of Volunteers at the Palos Hills Forest Preserve. He welcomes our participation in forest clean-ups out there.

Meanwhile, we have regular meetings every other Sunday, including a light dinner, while discussing a book or film. The current book under discussion is *Collapse, How Societies Choose to Succeed or Fail*, by Jared Diamond. We hold our discussions on Sunday, at 5 p.m. in the Curtiss Room of Meadville Lombard. All church members and friends are welcome to either or both activities.

### By Ellen LaRue

The next meeting of First Church's environmental study group will be in the field, doing forest restoration - so bring your mittens. We will be going out to Beaubien Woods on Saturday December 2 from 9:30 until 11:30. Get off the Bishop Ford Freeway at the stop after 130th Street, at the Beaubien Woods exit, and bear to your right until you are on the frontal drive just west of the expressway. We will be parked there along the side of the road. If you want to go from the corner of 57th and Woodlawn, we meet here at 9 a.m. Our next study group meeting will be on the final four chapters in the book *Collapse*, date to be announced, shortly.

## Nature of Racism Class

The Nature of Racism class will meet Wednesday, December 13, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. in the R.E. Resource Room. There will be two topics: The History of Multiracial Unity during the Middle Ages from Europe to Asia, and Are Multi-racial Children More Violence Prone: A critique of an article on the social disadvantages of being a multiracial youth by U of C professor Yoonsun Choi.

## Holiday Fair Trade Craft Fair

By Cindy Pardo

First Unitarian will offer an international selection of Fair Trade goods at its annual "Holiday With A Heart" craft fair, December 2 and 3. This event will offer a huge variety of goodies - adult and children's clothing and accessories, holiday decorations, games, toys, instruments, jewelry, baskets, sculpture, and table linens - all made by small cooperatives around the world. First Unitarian works with three Fair Trade groups; Ten Thousand Villages, Colores del Pueblo, and Handmade in India, to bring the best of world craft to holiday shoppers. And it feels good to shop here, because Fair Trade cooperatives guarantee a fair wage for the artisans who create the products.

This year First Unitarian has added a local group to the fair. Womancraft is an outreach program of Deborah's Place, a social service agency which assists homeless women. The handcrafted papers, stationery, albums and picture frames created in the Womancraft workshop help provide training and employment for Deborah's Place clients.

"Holiday With A Heart" will run from 10:00 - 4:00 on Saturday, December 2, and 12:00 - 3:00 on Sunday, December 3. Sunday's fair hours will be followed by a free Christmas concert by First Unitarian's Music Director, **Michael Thorn**.

Volunteers to help out with this event will be greatly appreciated. Contact **Cindy Pardo**.

## The Hyde Park and Kenwood Interfaith Council Vision Project

**Rev. Nina Grey** is meeting twice monthly with the Transitions Team of the Hyde Park and Kenwood Interfaith Council, as they begin a process to envision a future for the Council's second century. The Council was founded in 1911 and has engendered many projects for the betterment of the Hyde Park and Kenwood communities over the years. Having now turned over the hunger programs to the fiscal management of the Hyde Park Union Church for a period of two years, the Council is making ready for new vision.

The Council has engaged Rev. Shanta Premawardhana, head of the interfaith programs of the National Council of Churches to lead it in a Visioning Process. The Transition Team will meet with Rev. Shanta at our church on December 9, 2006 for a preliminary planning meeting.

**Kathleen Green** will be ordained into the Unitarian Universalist Ministry in a ceremony at the Unitarian Church of Evanston, on Saturday, January 13, 2007, at 3:30 p.m. There will be a reception following the ceremony.

## Unity Party Planning

Anyone interested in helping plan the Unity Party (over chili and cider), please contact **Bobbi Campbell**. We will be meeting Friday December 8 from 6 to 7 pm. This (next) year the Unity Party will be on January 27. Put it on your calendar!

*December 3 First Forum*

## Spiritual Hospitality

**Rev. Nina Grey**

Come learn how we are creating a culture of hospitality for our spiritual diversity. All are welcome to participate in this second sharing opportunity among members of the Spiritual Pluralism Project Groups. After introductions of the project and participants, and the sharing of covenantal guidelines for our time together, the groups (UU Buddhist, UU Christian, UU Earth-Centered, and UU Humanist) will report on their activities, and then relate how they see their paths resonating with the Fourth and Seventh UU principles.

Others who are not part of the project groups will then have the chance to share how their own spiritual paths or perspectives relate to those same principles. If there is time, we will end by responding to some questions and welcoming new questions.

## Young Adults at First Unitarian

**By Andy (Jordan) Greenlee**

The First Unitarian Young Adult Campus Ministry (YACM) has been incredibly busy over the past few months. I wanted to take a moment to update the church community on our progress. In September, **Rev. Nina, Seanan Holland**, and I participated in an activity fair for University of Chicago students. We had the opportunity to talk with students interested in our faith tradition, and provided them with information on YACM and the work of our church. In October, we began holding young adult worship services on the first and third Sundays of each month. Seanan Holland has been leading Soulful Sundown worship services incorporating music, interactive worship, and UU spirituality. I have been leading a young adult focused Chalice Circle. **Ian Muhlhauser** has been providing support for both of these regular YACM meetings. This past November, **Erin Gingrich** organized an intergenerational outing to Circus of the Spirit, an intergenerational dance and spirituality event hosted by Unity in Chicago.

At this point, many of you are probably still wondering exactly what YACM is - of course, the best way to find out is to join us for one of our upcoming activities! YACM is focused on the community of young adults aged 18-35, although everyone is welcome to join in our activities. Although we are called a campus ministry, one need not be a member of any academic institution to join us - all are welcome! Our next event will be a Soulful Sundown service held in Hull Chapel on December 3rd at 6:00pm. In December, there will be no Chalice Circle due to the winter holidays. If you would like more information about YACM, please feel free to

contact me.

## BGLT News

**By Joe Cherry, Chair of Interweave**

Many were elated that both Houses of Congress achieved new leadership in this month's election, but not all Americans feel like it was a grand victory. In the mid term elections, though not a single democrat lost their seat, BGLT Americans suffered several hits. There were a number of anti-gay marriage initiatives on ballots during the 2006 mid-term elections. Here are the results of the proposed same-sex marriage bans:

### Arizona

Proposition 107, called the 'Protect Marriage Amendment', will take away domestic partnership benefits currently offered in Phoenix, Tucson, Scottsdale and Tempe.

Result: Failed

### Colorado

Referendum 1

Results: Legalize Domestic Partnerships- Failed; Ban Same-Sex Marriage- Passed

### Idaho

Proposed constitutional amendment to define marriage as between a man and woman, barring any form of domestic partnerships, civil unions or gay marriage.

Result: Passed

### South Carolina

The failed 2004 ballot initiative returns with the same purpose: A constitutional amendment denying gay and lesbian families any form of legal recognition, rights, responsibilities, or protections.

Result: Passed

### South Dakota

Proposed constitutional amendment denying gay and lesbian families any form of legal recognition, rights, responsibilities, or protections.

Result: Passed

### Tennessee

Proposition 1 is a constitutional amendment defining marriage as between a man and woman.

Result: Passed

### Virginia

Ballot initiative solidifying the already banned gay marriage.

Result: Passed

### Wisconsin

Ballot initiative permanently denying same-sex marriage rights and civil unions (which also affects heterosexual couples).

Result: Passed

## Holiday Music

Don't miss the special holiday music programs at First Church!

On Sunday, December 3 at 3:00 p.m. enjoy original organ music composed and performed by our Music Director, **Michael Thorn**. The music, "Christmas Organ Book," is a set of twelve pieces for organ based on traditional Christmas carols and hymns, which include such favorites as: Joy to the World, Silent Night, Hark the Herald Angels Sing etc. The moods range from contemplative and lyrical to a joyous virtuosity. This is the first concert performance of these pieces.

On Sunday, December 10, at the 10 a.m. worship service, the Choir of First Unitarian, with soprano soloist Diana Lawrence will perform a program of traditional and contemporary Christmas music including three new works by Michael Thorn.

Both events are free and open to the public. A free will offering will be taken.

## Welcome Suppers

The membership committee cordially invites new members and visitors who would like to meet others interested in First Church to join us for a Welcome Supper or Lunch. Children are welcome! We have arranged monthly gatherings, rotating between Friday and Sunday evenings and luncheon after church activities. Sign up at the Membership Table on Sunday, call the host, or call the church office to make a reservation. The schedule for the coming six months is:

Sunday, December 3, 2006, 5:30- 7:30 pm: Hosts **Tom & Margaret Huyck**,

Friday, January 12, 2007, 6 - 8 pm: Host **Ken Schug**,

Sunday, February 11, lunch (after church)

Sunday, March 11, 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Friday, April 20, 6:00 - 8:00

Sunday, May 6, lunch (after church)

## Update from the Social Mission Outreach Task Force

The Social Mission Outreach Task Force would like to thank the church community for their continued support of this quarter's selected program, the Hyde Park and Kenwood Interfaith Council Hunger Programs. This next month will be the third and last Social Mission Outreach collection for the Hunger Programs. In next month's newsletter, be on the lookout for information on how much money we have raised for the Hunger Programs, and an announcement of the next quarterly recipient of Social Mission Outreach funds.

The Social Mission Outreach Task Force is responsible for helping the church community to financially support organizations and projects which take our mission into the larger world. Plate offerings from the third Sunday of each month are allocated for this Social Mission Outreach contribution. We invite church members and friends to nominate organizations that might be worthy of our contributions. Some suggested recipients of Social Mission Outreach Funds include:

- \* The Blue Gargoyle's literacy and job readiness programs
- \* Affinity programs for African American Lesbians
- \* The Transitional Housing Program
- \* The Hyde Park Neighborhood Club
- \* Cathedral Shelter Christmas Family Basket
- \* Southwest Women Working Together
- \* The Working Bikes Program

To find out more about the Social Mission Outreach Task Force and how you can get involved, please visit the Social Justice table at Coffee Hour, talk with one of the Task Force members (**Andy Greenlee, Ellen LaRue, Maderia Myrieckes, Cindy Pardo, Ken Schug and Lara Tushla**), or email the task force Chair, Lara Tushla.

## UU's for Social Justice

The annual meeting of UU's for Social Justice will be held on December 3, 2006, at 2:00 p.m. at the Unitarian Church of Evanston, 1330 N. Ridge Rd. There will be a workshop entitled "How Well is Our Water Wealth," followed by a business meeting. For further information, contact **Allan Lindrup**.

## What they were saying at First Forum ...

By Bobbi Campbell

Meadville Lombard theologian **Mike Hogue** presented the November 12 First Forum. One of Mike's main points was that liberal religion (including Unitarian Universalism) needs to develop better theological literacy if it is to meet the challenges of today's world. He said that liberal religion is in a crisis - that it is the nature of liberal religion, which is in a place between "extremism and complacency," to be in crisis. This crisis however, comes at a time when the world is sharply divided, often along religious lines. Liberal religion, especially Unitarian Universalism, has a special responsibility to model in the world the possibility of people of diverse religious backgrounds coming together to cooperate instead of to engage in violent conflict. In fact, he noted, Unitarian Universalism is about the only place in the world where regular people (not just academics and theologians) can come together in religious activities.

Much discussion was generated about what theological literacy is, and we discovered some things about its complexity. Mainly, Hogue said, theological literacy is a pattern of thinking - a way of moving reflectively between our experiences and our depths of meaning. It includes becoming more familiar with the texts and symbols of the heritages that have come together in Unitarian Universalism. It requires that we approach these traditions with a spirit of inquiry, opening ourselves "to the full power of the other" so that the dialogue does not devolve into "a self-deceptive monologue" in the words of Richard Bernstein.

Theological literacy needs to be approached at the level of the individual, the congregations, and the denomination. Among the concrete things that individuals can do to achieve greater theological literacy are, participating in First U pluralism groups, engaging in individual self study, and engaging in small group reading and discussion groups. In addition, it was pointed out that we need to find a way of being with each other that reduces the antagonisms we often develop toward others in our own congregation.

In this writer's opinion, a more developed theological literacy will also be important in the next few years as the Unitarian Universalist Association evaluates our Seven Principles and as we attempt to engage in that process.

It was emphasized that theological literacy is not a purpose, but the means to an end. The end is having a "more prophetic footprint in the world" for liberal

religion in general and allowing us to "reimagine a public theology that is historically faithful and culturally relevant."

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## December 1 Holiday Gathering for Sunday Morning Church Leaders

Rev. Nina Grey and Danielle Gerrior are hosting a holiday and Thank You celebration for worship associates, worship leaders, choir members, and Sunday morning Church School teachers, and their families on Friday evening, December 1, gathering from 6 p.m. in the RE classrooms in Pennington Center. This is both a Thank You and an opportunity for our church school teachers and worship leaders to get to know each other better. If you are a worship associate, choir member, or Sunday morning Church School teacher, and did not yet receive your invitation, please come anyway! RSVP to the church office or to the telephone number on your invitation.

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### From Ellen Cooper-Davis

As the holiday season gets into full swing, I am aware of the countless ways in which this year has been a bright and blessed one for me. Among the blessings I am counting this year is the support I have received from many people concerning my call to and pursuit of the ministry. The support of First Unitarian has been an invaluable part of my journey. To all of you who have expressed encouragement, support and affirmation of my ministries, I am grateful! May you all be richly blessed, in this holiday season and in the quieter, darker months ahead.



# A Month of Sundays

Worship at 10:00 a.m.

## December 3

Rev. Nina D. Grey

### Spiritual Hospitality

Today we reflect on the challenges, arts and practices of spiritual hospitality. One emphasis will be on how our spiritual lives equip us to welcome the stranger. Another will be on the challenges and blessings of spiritual pluralism while fostering unity. We will light the first candle of the Advent wreath.

Rev. Nina Grey is a Doctor of Ministry student at McCormick Theological School. Her thesis is "The One and the Many: Embracing Spiritual Pluralism in Congregational Life".

After the Social Hour, the First Forum will continue the topic as members of the Spiritual Pluralism Project at First Unitarian Church engage in sharing with one another and with others in the congregation.

## December 10

Michael Thorn, Director of Music

Rev. Nina D. Grey, homily

### Prepare the Way: Songs for the Advent Season

Rev. Nina Grey will offer a homily "Prepare the Way" and the First Unitarian Choir will sing familiar, diverse and original songs for the Advent season, including the premier of Michael Thorn's new jazz arrangement of O Come, O Come Emmanuel. We will light the second candle of the Advent wreath. Join us for this joyful celebration of word and song.

## December 17

Danielle Gerrior

Rev. Nina D. Grey

### A Christmas Pageant On RE Holiday Sunday

We retell the story of Christmas in pageant and song. Join our young folk as they dramatize this familiar story of the birth of Jesus. Participate in the congregational singing that accompanies this story of hope and possibility, love and joy. We will light the third candle of the Advent wreath.

## December 24, 10 a.m.

Rev. Nina D. Grey

### Festivals of Light?

How do different faiths embrace the symbol of light? Three days after the Solstice, we gather in Hull Chapel for music, meditation, homily and story, as we honor the Solstice, Chanukah and Christmas, and celebrate the wonder of light. If you have a favorite poem, brief story, or experience about the miracle of light that you would like read or have told on this day, call or email Rev. Nina Grey. Bring a favorite holiday snack to share. This morning we will worship in Hull Chapel and we will light the fourth candle of the Advent wreath.

## December 24, 6 p.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Rev. Nina D. Grey

The Chicago Children's Choir

### O Holy Night

Families light candles and women, men and children witness to the enduring values of light and joy, faith and love. Members, friends, extended families, visitors, neighbors, we all join together and raise our voices high in shared aspirations for peace and love.

The Chicago Children's Choir graces our celebration with music from many lands, as we once again gather for celebration of the birth of the baby Jesus and the birth of every child. In our candlelight ceremony shines the mystery of light's persistence, underlining hope in the face of darkness and despair. This is a service for all ages. This is a service of hope.

## December 31

The Congregation

A Kwanzaa Service

We reflect on the meaning of Kwanzaa, and the symbols of this important African American cultural affirmation that lasts for eight days, from the day after Christmas until the New Year. We light the candles of the Kinara, and ponder the meanings of the seven principles and artifacts of Kwanzaa. If you wish to help create this service, please contact Polly McCoo, or Rev. Nina Grey.

**First Unitarian Society**  
**5650 S. Woodlawn Ave.**  
**Chicago IL 60637**

**December 2006**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
<b>3</b> 10 a.m. Worship Spiritual Hospitality 11:30 am First Forum 12-3 Holiday Craft Fair 3:00 p.m. Organ Concert	<b>4</b> 7:00 UU Humanists	<b>5</b> 7:00 Program Council 7:30 Property Comm.	<b>6</b> 5:30 Executive Committee	<b>7</b> 7:00 Worship & Music Comm.	<b>8</b> 6:30 Pastoral Care Assoc.	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 10 a.m. Worship. Choir Program 6:30 9/11 Study Group	<b>11</b> 6:00 Men's Group	<b>12</b> 6:30 Mgmt. Consulting TF 7:00 Communications 7:00 UU Christians	<b>13</b> 7:30 Nature of Racism	<b>14</b> 7:15 Social Justice Council.	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 10 a.m. Worship. Holiday Pageant	<b>18</b> 7:00 UU Humanists	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 7:00 Trustees	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 10 a.m. Worship. Festivals of Light 6:00 Christmas Eve Vespers	<b>25</b> <b>Christmas Day</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 10 a.m. Worship. Kwanzaa HP Neighbors Eve						

EVERY SUNDAY

9:00 Choir  
 9:30 Nursery  
 10:00 Worship  
 10:15 RE Classes  
 11:15 Social Hour

EVERY MONDAY

8:45 am Aerobics  
 3:15 Ballet School

EVERY TUESDAY

8:45 Aerobics  
 4:00 Ballet School  
 4:00 Chi. Childrens Choir  
 7:00 Yoga

WEDNESDAY

8:45 Aerobics  
 3:45 Ballet School  
 5:15 Meadville-Lombard Vespers  
 7:15 Alateen  
 7:30 Choir  
 7:30 Tai Chi  
 8:00 Alanon

THURSDAY

8:45 Aerobics  
 3:15 Ballet School  
 4:00 Chi Childrens Choir  
 5:45 Overeaters Anon.  
 6:00 Affinity  
 6:30 Sea Scouts

EVERY FRIDAY

8:45 Aerobics  
**SATURDAY**  
 9:00 Ballet School