December 2018 Services
Theme - Hope

Sunday, December 2 – Guest Speaker – Tashi Nyima.

December 9 – 10:30am - “Homelessness and Racial Injustice” – Guest Speaker – Rabbi David Gruber.

December 16 – 10:30am - A Holiday Pageant for all ages. “The Dragon Who Never had a Christmas”.

December 23—10:30am - "Journey into Solstice." We will journey together into the heart of ancient Yule and Winter Solstice celebrations to experience winter as a time of retreat and recovery before the rebirth of the light. Led by Elena Westbrook and Community UU Choir.

Monday, December 24 · 3pm -“Christmas Eve Service for Families”. This is a lively, participatory service of familiar carols and rounds, beautiful descants and bells, readings and stories of the season. Adults, youth, families, children of all ages – all are welcome. Led by the RE Board.

Monday, December 24 - 6pm - Lessons and Carol Service led by Rev. Scott Cooper.


January, 2019
Sunday Services
Theme - Justice

January 6 - TBA
January 13 - Guest Speaker - Edwin Robinson.
January 20 - TBA
January 27 - Guest Speaker - Liz Coit

Typical Sunday
10:30 - 11:45 a.m.: Worship, Religious Education for Children and Youth, and Nursery Childcare
11:45 a.m.: Coffee and Conversation

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We are looking forward to a special weekend on January 25-27 with Stewardship for Us (SforUs) a UU-affiliated consulting team. At the request of CUUC’s Board of Trustees, SforUs consultant Liz Coit will be joining us to explore ways to advance our goals and aspirations toward strong and sustainable stewardship. Stewardship for Us created the Next Steps Weekend to provide UU churches and fellowships with a constructive foundation of reflection, information, and strategies as they plan and forge ahead with stewardship programs and other means of growing their resources.

Many of us will be involved! Liz is learning about us through documents; and will also be speaking with Board members, our committees, and individual members. Some of her time will also be devoted working directly with the board and others to prepare for the next Annual Budget Drive. She will share her findings, recommendations, ideas, as well as perspectives on other congregations’ challenges and efforts on Sunday, January 27. She will submit a written report for the Board to share with the congregation after the Next Steps Weekend.

If you are on the Membership, Worship and Ministry, Social Action, Buildings and Grounds, Music, adult and youth religious education, and Leadership Development Committees, please plan on participating in 45-50 minute meetings at different times during Friday afternoon January 25 and the morning of Saturday, January 26. There will also be an appreciation luncheon on Saturday to which the congregation will be invited to celebrate longtime members. Sarah will be in touch with you soon with an invitation to join us. Thank you all for sharing your insights, perspectives, and ideas!

Minister's Discretionary Fund. The month of December the Share the Plate, which happens Sunday, December 30 will go to the Minister’s Discretionary Fund. This fund helps many members of our congregation and the community at large. Half of the collection on Sunday, December 30 will go to Minister's Discretionary Fund. You can also donate to this cause all month long via the CUUC web page by selecting the Share the Plate option.

Fifth Annual Christmas Toy Drive for God's Pantry Children will start December 1 with boxes under the holiday tree to collect your unwrapped toys for children 12 and under. This year Costco will also be donating toys to help with the ever growing number of children in need, so the donations will be sorted by age groups and have separate boxes to help with distribution.

Gods Pantry appreciates the continued support of our church.
Presidents Column

In this time of divisiveness, and often open hatred, North Texas needs Unitarian Universalism more than ever. Our message of the inherent worth and dignity of all people is one that needs to be proclaimed loudly and often. Community UU of Plano has a key role. People from Richardson, Garland, Frisco and McKinney and even farther north look to us to be the voice of liberal religion in this area.

It is our duty and our privilege to be a beacon of hope, a voice for justice, and a place of healing for all who need us. The need is great and we have much work to do to make this world the fair and decent place we all desire. It is so important for our work that Community UU Church continue to be a healthy and thriving religious community. We owe it to ourselves and to the greater community to be strong and fit.

We are undergoing much change, much soul searching, and much reflection to determine how we can continue to be relevant to our parishioners as well as to the broader community. The stewardship weekend that is scheduled for the fourth weekend of January is one way we will determine our path to future service, greater relevance, and more justice making. Please plan to take part in the “Next Steps Weekend” in January. The information we gather and the strategies we learn will enable us to maintain our position as a voice for justice and fair play in North Texas.

Please read the article in this newsletter that explains the “Next Steps Weekend” in detail. Mark your calendars for January 25, 26 and 27. Plan to attend some of the events. We need you to be part of this exciting weekend that will allow us to prepare for our next minister, maintain financial health and build for our future. Much depends on all of us, but we are capable and visionary people who know how to get things done. We are the community in Community UU Church.

Annual Holiday Folksing - Friday, December 7

The CUUC First Friday Folksingers invite you to their Annual Holiday Folksing on Friday, December 7th at 8pm at the home of Gail and Charlie Battista.

Bring a holiday snack to share and come sit around the fire and join the FFFS in singing your favorite holiday carols and songs. Just listening is OK too! Come kick off the Holiday Season by joining in the fellowship of the First Friday Folksingers holiday festivities.

Bring your instruments and copies of any special music. A piano is available. Adult beverages will be provided. There is no childcare available.

Please RSVP Charlie Battista to let us know you’ll be coming.
Simple Living Chalice Circle
The next meeting will be Saturday morning December 8 at 11am.
Theme/topic – Learning together to live deliberately.
Facilitator Ona Tannehill at Email simpleliving@communityuuchurch.org.

Women’s Fellowship Breakfast.
To all the women of the Church:
We’re having a fellowship breakfast gathering of all the women of the Church on Saturday, December 15 at Poor Richard’s Café, 2442 K Ave. in Plano, starting at 8:30-9am and ending around 9:30-10am. Come join us for a morning of good food and fellowship to meet other women in the church. For more information, questions and to RSVP, contact Vicki Verinder at membcom-chair@communityuuchurch.org.

The Genealogy Group next meeting is Thursday, January 17, 2pm in Founders Hall.

The Men’s Fellowship Breakfast is Saturday, December 15, 8:30am at Poor Richards Cafe, 2442 K Avenue, Plano, TX 75074. If you plan to attend, please let Tom Bieg know by 6pm Friday, November 16.

Friday Flix. Snack, beverages and conversation at 6:30pm with the movie starting at 7pm in Founders Hall.

December 14 - “The Man Who Invented Christmas”

December 28 - TBA

VOLUNTEER NEEDED - to collect weekly donations from God’s Pantry Cart and place in a car in the parking lot. The help will be much appreciated. See Linda Frank.

Literary Ladies Book Club Upcoming Meeting. Women members and friends of Community UU Church are welcome to join us on the third Tuesday of the month from 7 – 9pm.
Date: December 18
Location: Jodie Zoeller’s home. Please contact Jodie by Friday, Dec. 14 if you plan to attend and bring a snack to share with the group.
Selection: Share a poem you’ve enjoyed or tell about a short story or essay you’ve recently read.

Our campaign for Guest At Your Table has begun and will end in early January. Any monetary donations need to be made out in checks to UUSC (Unitarian Universalist Service Committee) and handed back to Anne or Chet Smith.

Women’s Alliance Holiday Fun!!
Come have fun with the Women’s Alliance at our annual Holiday Party on Sunday, December 9 starting at 2pm at the lovely home of Victoria Rachel. The address is 807 19th Street in Plano. Please bring a snack to share. There will be a white elephant gift exchange (approximately $10 a gift). All women welcome! There will be lots of laughter and much merry making so come join us! Please RSVP to women@communityuuchurch.org.

Deadline for the January newsletter is Friday, December 7. Email articles to newsletter@communityuuchurch.org.
Children and Youth Religious Education Ministry

As we are well into the holiday season, there is so much that happens each year. We all have memories of wonderful holiday events shared with family and friends. Those memories include happy traditions. Often, these traditions include things that create the magic of the holidays for you and your family. There are risks some of these traditions get interrupted. With children, knowing what to expect is important. They want to understand why something is different. The most important thing is to let children know it will be different. Talk to them, explain what you can. If a tradition has to be changed, you might consider including the children in the discussion about how to change it. It might be a great opportunity to let them be part of creating the magic of the holidays or a chance to create and share that magic with someone else.

Sometimes the tradition includes people who cannot be with us, often due to life changes or physical distance. Children may not understand or want to accept these changes. This can be hard on everyone. The caregivers may be grieving that life change themselves, even if it is a change for the better. Children also might be grieving the life change or the change in tradition. Please talk to them, listen to them. They might help with the grieving, and it may be an opportunity to create a new tradition and some of that special magic of the holidays.

Sometimes the tradition changes because children get older. As children get older, find ways to include them in creating the traditions. Perhaps, they can help create the holiday magic for their siblings or others. This will create new memories of those traditions, for them and you. There are many ways to create holiday magic.

Lastly, I want to take a moment to remind everyone to remember, children watch and learn by what you do and how you treat others. In this season of giving, help your children to understand what it means to give. Give simply to give. You will receive the pleasure of giving. If this is something you have not done before, start small. You might greet someone you don’t know with a smile or say thank you to a grocery store clerk. You may be surprised by the response. You might discover a new tradition of your own or create some holiday magic.

Brennan Hadden - RE Chairman

Join the CUUC youth group in our 2nd annual yule/winter solstice celebration on

December 21 starting at 6pm. This all ages/family event is a celebration of the season, and a thank you to all of you who have supported the youth program. We will have a ritual in the garden, prepared by the teens, including a Yule log, teens are asked to please arrive at 5:30pm for set up. We will also have festive main dishes, hot cider and music in the church. Please bring a side or dessert to share. You may want to bring a folding chair or picnic blanket for the garden as well. And BYOB.
Social Action News

What’s New in the Community Garden?

With the early arrival of winter, this is a good time to look back over our year at the garden and to celebrate the successes! We have both beautified and made our garden a safer place to be this year. In our battle against natural garden predators (Quit eating my beets!) we have moved storage areas to decrease vole habitats, installed a screech owl box, and used fencing and other deterrents to keep our vegetables safe. The grapevines are finally growing and thriving (thank you Kathy) after several years of trying and they are beautiful!

Other improvements include: two additional faucets and a more convenient shut off valve, hose trees installed and decorated, watering buddy teams, Canna lilies moved to fence line, spider sculpture, the beginnings of a butterfly haven in the terrace garden, new paint for pallet storage and picnic tables, and our lovely sunflowers decorating the scene.

What do we need now? We need you! Please consider adopting a plot this year. The rewards and camaraderie are bountiful, as is our harvest. Contact Deb Bliss at harvest@communityuccchurch.org.

God’s Pantry

The Pantry will continue their long tradition of distributing Christmas Baskets for families in need. The baskets will contain a frozen turkey and all of the traditional accompaniments for their holiday dinner plus additional food for the long weekend since schools and some workplaces will be closed. Our church is a partner in this tradition.

The church will also sponsor a toy drive in December for the children of God’s Pantry. This will be our fifth year donating gifts for God’s Pantry children.

Guest At Your Table

After receiving a query from Hallie Garner about matching gifts to Guest At Your Table, I checked with a UUSC (Unitarian Universalist Service Committee) staff member. YES! If an individual gift to GAYT is $125 or more and is not given anonymously, it is eligible to be matched through the UU Congregation of Shelter Rock in NY. The donor's name and the amount given needs to be submitted in order to receive the matching gift.

Please pick up a Guest At Your Table box from church in the sanctuary, foyer or alcove between the sanctuary and Founders Hall, and begin "feeding" it through November and December (about 50 cents a meal recommended). In early January 2019 all donations need to be submitted and or given in check form to Anne or Chet Smith to be sent to the UU Service Committee. Many thanks for your generous donations! Anne Smith.
Winter Family Camp at UBarU Dec 28-31, 2018

Celebrate the winter holidays with your UU friends, enjoy the cool and darkness of December at camp, and relax from the holiday rush.

Check in on Friday after 4pm but in time for dinner at 6p.m. Camp will end on Monday morning in time for you to hopefully get home for New Year's celebrations. We will offer break-out sessions for adults and kids (over 5 years old) as well as multi-generational opportunities to sing, celebrate, and be in community together. There will be an optional field trip to Kerrville or nearby area, camp fires and/or a star party (weather-dependent).

Accommodations: Participants will be sleeping in the new Dwight & Marie Brown Center in bunk beds, unless you have purchased use of a private room. Tent camping (bring your own tent) is also allowed. Each bunkhouse suite has central heat and air and one common bathroom. Additional bathrooms, sinks, and shower stalls are available one door down. Due to the communal sleeping arrangements, this event is not suitable for infants who are not sleeping through the night.

Finally, please feel free to contact Robyn Stout director@ubaru.org or 830-460-6002, with any other questions or concerns you may have about the retreat. We are looking forward to spending a relaxing and spiritually rich weekend with you!

Holiday Decorating Fun! The best part of the winter holidays is putting up all the beautiful evergreens and sparkly lights. Get yourself in the holiday spirit by helping the worship committee and the Girl Scouts to decorate the church. We'll have music to get you in the mood while we put up trees, hang ornaments, and string up the garlands. Come join us Saturday, December 1, 10am to about noon. Questions? Contact Elena Westbrook.

November Board Highlights

The Board discussed the need to update contracts before new hires to best advantage future employees and the Church, including contract timing and how benefits are paid.

The Board discussed the recent Service Auction. Final numbers were not available.

The Board discussed the recent NTUUC summit. Discussions at the summit were interesting, but no final decision about the role and structure of NTUUC decided yet.

The website update is still in progress.

The Board approved the new title and job description for the Consulting DRE.

The Board discussed the presenters for absent board members for the Annual Fall Congregational Meeting.
**Adult Religious Education Classes**

The Mission of the Adult Religious Education Program is to nurture and stimulate the religious and personal growth of the adult church community. We offer a varied and cohesive program within the context of the living Unitarian Universalist tradition and principles. The church website has been updated with the latest classes and class descriptions - check it out at [www.CommunityUUChurch.org](http://www.CommunityUUChurch.org) under Adult Religious Education. Childcare is available for all classes, upon request. To reserve childcare call the church office (972-424-8989) at least 48 hours in advance.

**Tuesday**

**Tibetan Buddhism – 7pm – in the sanctuary. Meditation and Mind Training.** Please join us for guided meditation and a skillful approach to developing mental peace and clarity. **Facilitated by the Ven. Tashi Nyima.**

**Thursday**

**Humanist Group – New Direction meets at 6pm in Room G.** The Humanist Group continues to meet prior to The Meaning of Life: Perspectives from the World’s Great Intellectual Tradition class led by Rev. Don Fielding. Each week different group members plan the discussion on a Humanist-oriented topic which helps us learn more about Humanism, its history, its relationship to UU ism, and its applications to our lives and spiritual-personal development. **December topics: TBD.**

Exploring the Roots of Religion in Room G at 7pm. Facilitator Don Fielding. The Meaning of Life: Perspectives from the World’s Great Intellectual Tradition, Professor Garfield has put together an intellectually gripping course that is every bit the equal of the monumental subject it sets out to explore. **November topics:** December 6 - Hero and Saint - Mapping the Cultural Genome; December 13 - The Heroic Age - The Greek Worldview; December 20 - Heroism and the Tragic View of Life; December 27 - Plato - Politics, Justice and Philosophy.

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**Board of Trustees**

*board@communityuuchurch.org*

Sarah Reiling, President  reilingsarah51@gmail.com  c# 214-620-4515

Keary Liu, Secretary  kearyliu@hotmail.com  h # 469-403-5849

Kimberly Schramm, President Elect  kschramm10@gmail.com  c# 949-439-8048

Jodie Zoeller, Personnel  jodiezoeller@gmail.com  c#214-212-8309

Vacant, VP Programs  programs@communityuuchurch.org

Alyssa Church, Communications  communication@communityuuchurch.org

**RE Board**

*reboard@communityuuchurch.org*

President – Brennan Hadden  Members: Steve Dodds, Jack Dorman, Angela Hathaway and Danni Williams

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The Church office will be closed Monday, December 24 thru Tuesday, January 1.
October Financial Report

Finance Report by Cindy Hadden Treasurer

The October financial summary for our operating accounts is listed below. The cumulative Net Income gap is $22.8 above budget. Our long time renters’ September check ($1.8K) was processed in October. This creates a high income for October, but year to date the income line is right around budget. No other unusual changes.

Looking forward: The Service Auction on November 3rd is behind us, but as of this writing we do not know the results yet. However, for the most part it is pledges that pay for salaries, utilities, mortgage, and maintenance, and we have noticed a few of our pledges falling a little behind. We will start reaching out to make sure all is going as planned, and to see if there is anything we can do to help. So far we are doing well this year, and we are setting ourselves up to get a good start next year. If you are able, would you consider increasing your pledge at the beginning of the calendar year, so we can properly prepare for the hiring process of our next minister? Thank you!

INCOME & EXPENSE October, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INCOME</th>
<th>October 2018</th>
<th>Month Budget</th>
<th>YTD Actual</th>
<th>YTD Budget</th>
<th>Annual Budget</th>
<th>% Annual Budget (FY 41.67% comp)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Offering</td>
<td>$13,083</td>
<td>$16,802</td>
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<td>$84,832</td>
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<td>Total Fund Raiser</td>
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<td>Total Building</td>
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<tr>
<td>Misc. Income</td>
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<td>$882</td>
<td>$1,150</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL INCOME</td>
<td>$17,497</td>
<td>$19,459</td>
<td>$93,073</td>
<td>$101,701</td>
<td>$267,865</td>
<td>34.75%</td>
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</table>

| EXPENSE                     |              |              |            |            |               |                                 |
| Administration             | $3,072       | $4,604       | $16,030    | $23,479    | $58,731       | 27.29%                          |
| Programs                   | $1,818       | $3,213       | $11,593    | $14,168    | $37,489       | 30.92%                          |
| Religious Education        | $0           | $4,865       | $10,781    | $29,771    | $64,461       | 16.73%                          |
| Facilities/Grounds         | $3,632       | $4,189       | $21,448    | $22,416    | $57,004       | 37.63%                          |
| Ministry                   | $0           | $0           | $23,075    | $24,477    | $29,665       | 77.79%                          |
| Denomination               | $1,865       | $1,865       | $7,460     | $7,460     | $20,515       | 36.36%                          |
| TOTAL EXPENSE              | $10,387      | $18,737      | $90,388    | $121,771   | $267,865      | 33.74%                          |
| NET INCOME                 | $7,110       | $723         | $2,685     | -$20,070   | $0            |                                 |

FREE MONEY!

Kroger: NOTE: It’s time to renew you Kroger Community Rewards - just follow this link: https://www.kroger.com/communityrewards

Amazon.com: Use this link for purchases: http://smile.amazon.com/ch/75-1787256

The church will get a portion of all purchase amounts!

Upcoming Share the Plate Offerings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Recipient</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 30</td>
<td>Minister’s Discretionary Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 27</td>
<td>Community Harvest Garden</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you forget your checkbook on a Share the Plate Sunday, remember you can always donate on line.

October’s Share the Plate netted $486.75 for the Meals on Wheels. Thank you!
December

For our December 2018 calendar, go to our website at:
CommunityUUChurch.org

Events listed on the calendar are subject to change. For more information and confirmation of these events, please visit the church calendar at http://www.communityuuchurch.org/pages/calendar.
UU Church Contact Email Addresses

President, Sarah Reiling: 
president@CommunityUUChurch.org

Director of Music, Christopher Wolff
musicdir@communityuuchurch.org

Church Secretary, Connie Meints: 
cuuc-office@CommunityUUChurch.org

Church Bookkeeper, John Elder: 
bookkeeper@CommunityUUChurch.org

Facilities Coordinator, Tom Brikowski
facilities@CommunityUUChurch.org

Board of Trustees: board@CommunityUUChurch.org
Trustees meetings are held the third Saturday of each month at 10am in the Annex. Members, friends and visitors are always welcome.

Worship Programs (Sunday Services, Ushers Coordinator, Interior Arts)
worshipteam@CommunityUUChurch.org

Caring Committee Coordinator, June Bruns
caring@CommunityUUChurch.org

Communications Director, Alyssa Church
communications@communityuuchurch.org

Membership Council
membcom@communityuuchurch.org

Personnel Coordinator, Jodie Zoeller
personnel-chair@communityuuchurch.org

Committee on Ministry, Karen Bethel, Chair
Mincom@communityuuchurch.org

Social Action Programs, Linda Frank
UUSInAction@CommunityUUChurch.org

Bridge Group Coordinator, Clint Burleson:
bridge@CommunityUUChurch.org

Circle Suppers Coordinator, John Snyder:
Circlesuppers@CommunityUUChurch.org

Friday Flix Coordinator, Celeste Kennedy
flicks@CommunityUUChurch.org

First Friday Folksingers Coordinator, Dick Hildenbrand:
folksingers@CommunityUUChurch.org

Outdoor Adventure Coordinator, Dick Hildenbrand:
outdooradventure@CommunityUUChurch.org

Leadership Development Committee:
ldc@CommunityUUChurch.org

Capital Improvement

Strategic Planning Committee:
planning@CommunityUUChurch.org

Chalice Circle/Simple Living Coordinator Ona Tannehill
simpleliving@CommunityUUChurch.org

Program Board: Vacant Chair
programs@CommunityUUChurch.org

Finance Committee: finance@CommunityUUChurch.org

Stewardship Committee Gene Verinder, Chair
stewardship@CommunityUUChurch.org

Investment Committee: David Hollands, Chair, Carol Wise, Karen Bethel
investment@CommunityUUChurch.org

Young Religious Unitarian Universalists vacant
yruu@CommunityUUChurch.org

Adult Enrichment/Adult Education Celeste Kennedy, Director
adultre@CommunityUUChurch.org

EarthSpirit Janie McDermott, Coordinator
earthspirit@CommunityUUChurch.org

Men’s Fellowship Tom Bieg, Coordinator
men@CommunityUUChurch.org

Religious Education Board Brennan Hadden, Chairperson
reboard@CommunityUUChurch.org

Hospitality Committee Gene Verinder, Coordinator
hospitality@CommunityUUChurch.org

Women’s Alliance: women@CommunityUUChurch.org

Safe Congregations
Safecongregations@communityuuchurch.org

UU Website Links

Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA): www.uua.org

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC):
www.uusc.org

Southwest District (SWUUC): www.swuuc.org

North Texas Unitarian Universalist Congregations (NTUUC):
www.ntuuc.org

CUUC Representatives, Celeste Kennedy and Grace Morrison
NTUUC@CommunityUUChurch.org

UBarU Camp and Retreat Center, Trustee, Bill Daffinee
Wrdaffinee@aol.com
Church Office Hours

Monday: church offices closed  
Tuesday: 9 am to 3 pm  
Wednesday: 9 am to 2:30 pm  
Thursday: 9 am to 2:30 pm  
Friday: 9 am to Noon  
Office Phone: # 972-424-8989

Bookkeeper John Elder Tuesday & Thursday: 10:30am - 2:30pm  
other times by appointment.

Church Secretary Connie Meints  
Tuesday 9am to 3pm, Wednesday & Thursday 9am to 2:30pm.  
Friday 9am to noon.

Music Director Christopher Wolff

The Community News

The Community News is distributed to Members and Friends of this church. Visitors who complete a visitor card receive issues for three months. To continue receiving issues, sign the “Welcome Back” book on each visit. Others may subscribe for an annual donation of $25.00.

The editor encourages and appreciates submissions and on-time submissions are especially delightful. The Community News is published once a month.

Email articles to newsletter@CommunityUUChurch.org

Please include your name on any news item submitted for The Community News. Items may be edited for clarity and brevity.