

February 1, 2019



UUCOD Monthly Newsletter

MINISTER'S MESSAGE



*Let your little light shine, shine, shine
Oh let your little light shine, let it shine
There may be someone down in the valley
Trying to get home*

Thoughts along the way:

I am on a journey with you, call it an adventure, as your Developmental Minister. Now that I have been here with you for several months, I have been discerning what that looks like. I tell friends near and far how I fell in love with UUCOD and how amazed I am by the breathe of experience that you generously share to better this community. I celebrate your kindnesses, intelligence, and justice seeking heart wisdom. I cannot think of a better community of kindred spirits with whom I would choose to share this adventure. So some thoughts I have had along the way.

Don't be afraid of some change.

What is a developmental minister? I think we won't really know what it means until we look back from where we came. Meanwhile, think of me as a kind of coach, one who encourages and challenges you realize what a true and beautiful light you are. All the rest is practice.

Don't be afraid to be the change.

We share the responsibility called ministry, to remind each other of who we truly are. The developmental ministry that we share calls us to be resilient, supporting the many leaders, who seek to move UUCOD in the direction you chose. This transformational effort asks that sometimes we stay steady in our efforts and sometimes we let them go, discerning whether what we do serves the chosen vision of a holistic stewardship ministry.

Stewardship sounds old fashioned but it best describes your overarching focus in its wholeness. Being good stewards of the overall health and well being of the entity we call UUCOD, of the "wholeness" of each one of you, the connections you have with one another, the congregation and the larger landscape of your lives. This shared ministry of stewardship can serve to bring forth what lights you up.

Pragmatically speaking, one of the hardest transitions for a congregation is to grow from a cozy pastoral size congregation, where pretty much everyone knows your name into a more program sized congregation, where the ministry is shared among its people in various committees (ministries) and decisions are based less on individuals and more on policies that are consistent even when leaders change.

UUCOD seems to be a bit of both. At 139 Members (as recently certified to the Unitarian Universalist Association) you are on that cusp. And like many congregations this size, you have gone back and forth as you approach those developmental challenges. Part of this stewardship ministry means that we will grow and as you do, your message will be carried further, the lights you can shine onto this world will also grow.

So, think of me as a long term coach who encourages, suggests, wonders, sometimes guides, (at times, I admit, says "no") and mostly cheers for you as you practice living into your unfolding vision. It is less about becoming or changing, though there will be changes, and more about revealing who you

really are, in all your light and fullness.

Don't be afraid to be changed.

I am happy to say that those I have served have changed me *for good*, as we sang a few weeks ago. Many would say sharing the ministry of wholeness in community changed them for good. My vision is that, through it all, we will be able to say that of each other.

UUCOD is a light unlike any other in this valley. a light of religious liberty and affirmation of whole human beings. Shine on! *There may be someone down in the valley, trying to get home*

Bless everyone, no exceptions.

Rev. Barbara

SERVICES

February 3, 2019

Becoming Humane Worship Leader: Rev. Barbara Fast

Have you ever felt as Mary Oliver wrote? "Everyone should be born into this world happy and loving everything. But in truth it rarely works that way. For myself, I have spent my life clamoring toward it. Halleluiah, anyway I'm not where I started!" It will be good to be together.

Worship Associate: Betty Bender



February 10, 2019

We Are Stardust Worship Leader: Rev. Barbara Fast

Whether we use scientific terms or poetry we yearn to understand what we are, how we got here and how to live the times of our lives. So in honor of Charles Darwin's birthday, Feb 12th, we will explore some "big" ideas.

Worship Associate: Bryna Blum

February 17, 2019

TBD Worship Leader: Rev. Barbara Fast

Worship Associate: Rob DuWors

February 24, 2019

Compassion and Choices Worship Leader: Erica Ruiz Bieranowski

Erica Ruiz Bieranowski, California Outreach manager of Compassion & Choices, will be with us to explain the full range of end-of-life care options including California's End of Life Option Act. The eligibility requirements, process, and how to access the law that has been on the books since June of 2016 will be explained. Participants can leave with an understanding of their rights and options at the end of life, and will be empowered to make informed decisions that reflects their values and priorities.

Worship Associate: Nancy Boyce

PLEDGE DRIVE UPDATE

UUCOD Annual Pledge Drive

As we begin our 2019-20 Annual Pledge drive, we ask you to join us in **Energizing our Community** to do the work of peace, hope and justice as we live out our 7 principles through action and generosity. As part of the year's pledge drive, we would like to not only support the Board's goal of *ensuring UUCOD's sustainable financial stability* through your financial support, but also introduce

you to another key strategic objective: *a new concept of stewardship*. Our redefined concept of stewardship encourages that each of us assume ownership and responsibility of our community and calls for more people to become more engaged in church activities and work. We believe that actions that support UUCOD will nourish your soul by making our sacred community a better place.

Stewardship is a combination of strengthening relationships, deepening quality of belonging, increasing connection to others, building community and developing resources. As of Sunday January



27th, we have raised \$76,913 toward our goal of \$165,000.

Stewardship

Our annual Stewardship Drive has begun. Our elders actualized their vision and raised money to build this beautiful building and grounds. Now we are stewards of their vision: tasked to invest our time, talents, and treasures honoring what our elders gifted us. Our annual pledge drive has begun. But is our pledge drive stewardship or just a part of what it means to be a steward?

What is our vision of stewardship now in 2019?

What about our community, our relationships, and our feeling of belonging here at UUCOD? Are we just shepherds of the physical plant and grounds or are we shepherds of each other too? Those questions about building community are driving our leadership to re-examine our historical concept of stewardship. There has traditionally been a pledge drive (sometimes called a stewardship drive) raising funds to keep the ship afloat. However, we have begun to build a broader view of stewardship that includes:

- Deepening our relationships
- Making a commitment to generosity of spirit
- Deepening collaboration and cooperation between leadership and congregation in all areas of church life
- Sharing a partnership in service to our community
- Honoring our commitment to our spiritual home
- Increasing welcoming hospitality to visitors, new members, and each of us

We have established an ongoing Stewardship Steering Committee to assist in establishing a multi-year strategy to help us all consider stewardship in a new broader view.

A couple of our initial programs have already begun:

- We have a newly formed Mentoring program to assist new members in becoming more fully involved in congregational life.
- We have a newly formed Social Committee to source, plan, and communicate to us a variety of engaging social activities, which we may enjoy together, throughout the year.

Stewardship is one way to minister to each other. We are all involved in shared ministry and stewardship with and to each other. Let us gratefully build our vision of stewardship within our community.



Chili Cook Off & Corn Bread Bake Off A Rousing Success!

Thirteen chili cooks & five corn bread bakers vied for bragging rights in their categories for this year's contest. Congratulations to the 2019 Grand Master Chili Chef & the Favorite Vegan Chili Award goes to Vikki Porter with her play on a favorite UU song, 'Roots Hold Me Close'. Favorite Meat & Spiciest Chili Awards go to Dave Carter with his 'Evelyn's Best' in honor of his beloved Mother. This year was the first year UUCOD held the Corn Bread Bake Off. Sally Weitzel was another double winner & took home both the Grand Master Corn Bread Trophy & the Favorite Sweet Award for 'Sally's Sumptuous Corn Bread'. Gloria Kapp won the Favorite

Spicy Award for her 'Just Hatched Corn Bread'. Thank you to all the participants & everyone who assisted in some way or another to make this celebration a success!

CALENDAR

Friday, February 1

8 am-Men's Breakfast
1:30pm-Afternoon Book Group
7:30 pm-S2S2S Performance

Saturday, February 2

1 pm-Drop in Scrabble
7:30 pm-S2S2S Performance

Sunday, February 3

Stewardship Drive

Sunday, February 17

Stewardship Drive
10 am-Worship Service
10 am- Share the Plate

Monday, February 18

5:30 pm-Meditation
7 pm-s2s2s Rehearsal

Tuesday, February 19

8:30 am-Weight Watchers

10 am-Food on the First
10 am-Worship
11:30 am-Communications Committee

Monday, February 4
5:30 pm-Meditation

Tuesday, February 5
8:30 am-Weight Watchers

Wednesday, February 6
6:30 pm-UUCOD Choir

Thursday, February 7
5 pm-DOS Choir
5:15 pm-Women's Night Out
7 pm-Bridge

Saturday, February 9
9 am-Second Saturday Stroll
10 am-Communications Committee

Sunday, February 10
Stewardship Drive
10 am-Worship Service
10 am-Socks on the 2nd/Well in the Desert
11:30 am-Finance Committee
11:30 am-Facilities Committee
11:30 am-Childrens Religious Ed. Meeting

Monday, February 11
5:30 pm-Meditation
7 pm-Evening Book Group

Tuesday February 12
8:30 am-Weight Watchers
10 am-Stewardship Steering Committee
5:30 pm-Membership Committee

Wednesday, February 13
6:30 pm-UUCOD Choir

Thursday, February 14
5 pm-DOS Choir
6:30 pm-Social Justice Committee
7 pm-Bridge

Saturday, February 16
8 am-Board Retreat
1 pm-Mom's Demand Action Meeting
1 pm-Drop in Scrabble

6:30 pm-Board of Directors' Meeting
7 pm-S2S2S Rehearsal

Wednesday, February 20
6:30 pm-UUCOD Choir

Thursday, February 21
5 pm-DOS Choir
7 pm-S2S2S Rehearsal
7 pm-Bridge

Friday, February 22
1:30 pm-Afternoon Book Club

Sunday, February 24
Stewardship Drive
10 am-Worship

Monday, February 25
5:30 pm-Meditation
7 pm-S2S2S Rehearsal

Tuesday February 26
8:30 am-Weight Watchers
4:30 pm-Worship Committee Meeting
7 pm-S2S2S Rehearsal

Wednesday, February 27
6:30 pm-UUCOD Choir

Thursday, February 28
5 pm-DOS Choir
7 pm-S2S2S Rehearsal
7 pm-Bridge

Friday, March 1
8 am-Men's Breakfast

Saturday, March 2
1 pm-Drop-in Scrabble

Sunday, March 3
10 am-Food on the First
10 am-Worship
11 am-India Presentation Social

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Feb. 3 Food on the First for Oasis Pantry

Don't forget to pick up some food items for the Oasis School migrant education families. Sealed packages of non-perishable staples improve nutrition and free up household funds to buy fresh foods. Check packages to be sure they are not out of date. Most needed: 1) dry goods: corn masa flour (Maseca, Torti-Masa, etc.) for tortillas, bagged rice or dried pinto beans, small pasta or dry spaghetti; 2) cooking oil: vegetable, canola, or corn oil; 3) canned proteins: chicken, tuna or jars of peanut butter; 4) canned fruits and vegetables: all fruits, vegetables, tomatoes, tomato sauce, pasta sauce.



Feb. 10 Socks on the Second for homeless persons

Thanks to all who donated 136 pairs of socks in January! Socks still so needed! Bring them Feb. 10 or leave ahead of time in the Well in the Desert brown bin in the UUCOD lobby before the 10th. Bring new socks, darker colors very welcome. Well in the Desert Palm Springs distributes to local people living

homeless. Your socks cushion footsteps during long treks on foot, provide a sense of comfort and dignity, and keep feet warm and dry. Due to limited space, socks only. For other items, please contact Well in the Desert or another charity and transport those items yourself. Thanks!

Feb. 17 Share-the-Plate: Shelter from the Storm

Domestic violence (DV) is a serious and pervasive social problem with devastating physical, psychological, and economic consequences for victims. Over one in three women, and one in four men, in the United States have been physically assaulted, sexually assaulted, and/or stalked by an intimate partner. In addition to physical health consequences from abuse, DV has been found to relate to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), depression, and suicide ideation. In order to cope, some survivors turn to alcohol or other drugs. Finally, DV often includes economic abuse, including preventing survivors from working or going to school, sabotaging their employment or housing, or ruining their credit. These tactics can lead to job loss, homelessness, and financial ruin. Shelter From The Storm, Inc. is the Coachella Valley's only comprehensive domestic victim assistance service and shelter provider organization. Our purpose is to provide support, prevent violence, and promote justice for victims of crime and abuse, their families and communities. Shelter From The Storm's first priority is the safety of those who seek assistance. Our programs work with clients to meet their needs, so they can look ahead to a safe horizon.

Please bring your checkbooks and make check payable to UUCOD so our treasurer can divide the collection evenly between UUCOD and the non-profit.

January share-the-plate raised \$719.40 for Planned Parenthood. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

EVENTS



STILL NEEDED- Donations of items for the garage sale. Funds raised will be used exclusively for fellow UUCODers in need of assistance. Please contact Carol Lavoie at mclavoie@aol.com or nancy boyce. at byorktown2@gmail.com.

Newly Formed Stewardship-Social Events Committee

Proudly announces our first scheduled event for **Thursday, Feb 14. Valentines With the Stars:** Our own Jonathan Fast & astronomer Eric Laughlin will host a Rancho Mirage Observatory tour for 25 lucky UUCOD'ers from 2-3 pm. After our outing, we will venture over to the Old Spaghetti Factory for a 3:30 meal (separate checks ok). Space is limited, sign up on lobby table, or email Sheryl Eaton (MuffinGolf@gmail.com) Please indicate **name, how many** in your party, **contact information & whether you will be enjoying the meal after.**

Sunday, March 3rd Jerry & Suzanne Hogsett will show photos and talk about INCREDIBLE INDIA, based on their recent trips there. It will focus on the beauty of community, the many things that surprised them and what they learned from it. We will share a potluck salad bar after church coffee hour with the Hogsett's presentation following. All are welcome. There will be a signup sheet after the Observatory Outing.

If you have suggestions or ideas of a social event that you would like to have our group enjoy, please share your ideas with Sheryl Eaton.

We are having a contest to name our new social group- - send your suggestions to Sheryl. Some ideas for consideration are "UU'ers on the Go & "the Butterflies" (as in social butterflies). Contest Winner prize is your name in the newsletter & you get to decide where next social outing will be!

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Month to Month: Start buying scrip through the church--it's easy to use and raises money for UUCOD. But how do I do that? Ask Sheryl Eaton, Bryna Blum or Barbara Storms and they'll get you started. Scrip orders are due the last Sunday of each month.

2019 Pacific Southwest District Assembly Registration is Live.

The keynote speaker for the 2019 PSW District Assembly has been announced and he has a few simple questions for every member of every UU community:

1. Are you engaging your congregants on the deepest and most meaningful levels possible?
2. Are you impacting their lives through your worship services to the point that they want to go out into the highways and byways to spread compassion, grace and radical hospitality?
3. Are you ready to "upcycle" your community's worship?

Join Rev. Barbara and attend the 2019 **Pacific Southwest District Assembly** April 26-28, 2019, at the UU Church of Long Beach, California.

Donald Milton III, director of music at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta, will lead the keynote presentation entitled "Upcycling Church Music for Deeper Engagement." Together we will explore new ways of approaching hymns, music, readings, rituals and sermons to make them more meaningful, impactful and fully engaging.

Donald Milton III runs one of the most eclectic and exceptional music programs in the UU movement. He wrote a chapter on upcycling church music for the recently released book, "Upcycle Your Congregation: Creative Ideas for Transforming Faith Communities."

Along with Milton's keynote presentation, there will be opportunities for worship, workshops, a youth con, social justice field trip and plenty of chances to connect with UUs from throughout Southern California, Arizona and Southern Nevada. Plan to be there: April 26-28 in Long Beach!

Coachella Valley Chapter of Mom's Demand Action

If anyone is interested in getting involved with and/or attending Mom's monthly meetings, the Coachella Valley chapter is now reinvigorating the group. They will be meeting at UUCOD on the 3rd Saturday of each month from February through November of this year. They will be meeting in the Community Room from 1-2:30 pm. No need to sign up, just show up if you are interested in hearing what they want to pursue in an effort to support the main Mom's organization and their efforts to have sensible gun laws passed. Any questions, please contact Joni Paddock at joni@palmcitybooks.com.

Save Saturday morning March 23rd for a tour of the Coachella Valley Wild Bird Center in Indio. Everyone is welcome. Details in the March!



WhaleCoast Alaska 2019

Have you ever dreamed of visiting Alaska? If so, WhaleCoast Alaska 2019 is for you! Four Alaska UU congregations invite you to experience our eco-cultural and spiritual program this summer. Tours led by Dave Frey, member of the Fairbanks UU congregation and Alaska travel expert. For complete information go to: www.WhaleCoastAK.org, email dfrey@whalecoastak.org or call 907-322-4966. Discount for groups of 8 or more.

Newsletter Deadlines: The deadline for the Newsletter is always Wednesday morning. If you are going to be late, call or email the Administrator at admin@uucod.org asking to reserve space. The newsletter needs to be on the website by 3 pm, Fridays.

Visit our website

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