

December 2019



UUCOD Monthly Newsletter

MINISTER'S MESSAGE



Tim Nguyen-Photographer

At The Heart of It

It is the season of giving and receiving gifts.

*In this time of shorter days and longer darker nights,
Give yourself the gift of time.*

*time for some peaceful ease to refresh your spirit
time to foster your wholeness,*

*time to share with people who call forth your light
time to bring your blessings to this world.*

Blessed Holiday and holy days.

Rev Barbara

AND

I am delighted to let you know that that Rev. Dr. Don Stouder, who has served as a Chaplain for more than three decades, is now our Affiliated Community Minister! In addition to preaching 4-6 Sundays a year, he will be supporting and offering supervision for our Lay Pastoral visiting program. We are blessed. There will have a Sunday Welcome for him in early 2020! Welcome Rev Dr Stouder!

What is a Community Minister?

By Rev Dr Don Stouder

Here's the simple definition: A Community Minister is a minister whose service to others takes place in the larger community beyond the church. You will hear from me about this topic during my sermon on December 29, but I wanted to get a brief jump-start. While I have been active in this role since I became a member of UUCOD, Rev. Barbara and the Board have decided to covenant together and have asked me to serve as an Affiliated Community Minister, which is a first for UUCOD but otherwise fairly common in other UU congregations.

There are many ways to envision ministry. One way is the shared ministry of service to one another that we practice in this church. And when we hear the title "Minister," most of us picture a seminary-trained and credentialed clergy person who serves in a church -- preaching every Sunday, meeting with congregants, visiting the sick, and generally guiding the spiritual life of her congregation.

But there have always been clergy who serve beyond the church walls, who are just as well trained and highly credentialed as those in the pulpit. Probably the most common example are board-certified Health Care Chaplains, like myself, who serve in hospitals and hospices. So I am able to cover for Rev. Barbara if an emergency should occur, and I can lend my experience to things like the Caring Committee.

Feel free to ask me, Rev. Barbara, or any board member if you have questions about my role. And thanks for letting me share my gifts with the congregation!

SERVICES

December 1, 2019

A sermon by Rev. Dr. Kenneth Torquil MacLean on Pietism.

Shirley LeMaster will present the most recent sermon written by the Reverend Doctor Kenneth Torquil MacLean, our Minister Emeritus. It is an examination of UU principles and pietism. What is pietism? Come find out.

Worship Leader: Shirley LeMaster
Worship Associate: Joni Paddock

December 8, 2019

The Annunciation: Mary's Consent or Mary #MeToo?

It is Advent. In the Christian calendar it is a time of expectation, a time to prepare for the birth of something new in this world. This sermon is an abbreviated feminist analysis (hermeneutic) on the myth of the Annunciation: The story made famous in artworks through the centuries where Arch Angel tells Mary that she will bear a child, and the story tells us she consents.

Worship Leader: Rev. Barbara Fast
Worship Associate: Peter Mathews

December 15, 2019

Look to the Lights: Look to the Stars

As the world grows dark in the northern hemisphere, human beings tell stories to warm their hearts and guide them through the dark nights ahead. Our choir will sing in the season. We will light the Christmas tree, of pagan heritage, and place our stars of hope and strength on its branches.

Worship Leader: Rev. Barbara Fast
Worship Associate: Denise Janssen Eager

December 22, 2019

Solstice

Worship Leader: Ian Challis
Worship Associate: Peter Mathews

December 24, 2019

Candle Light Christmas Eve Service with Choir and Carols

Come and bring the family for our Christmas Eve Service. Light Candles, share a message and sing in the season of peace and hope, again.

Worship Leader: Rev. Barbara Fast
Worship Associate: Josette Pacino

December 29, 2019

There If You Need Me

The sermon title is taken, of course, from UU Minister Kate Braestrup's best-selling memoir about her journey as a chaplain for Maine Game Wardens. But what exactly is a community minister/chaplain in the UU tradition? Rev. Don will help us understand the role, and why it is such an important, if misunderstood, ministry in our faith."

Worship Leader: Rev. Don Stouder
Worship Associate: Bryna Blum

CALENDAR

Saturday, November 30

12:30 pm-Felted Scarf Class

Sunday, December 1

Food on the First

10:00 am-Worship Service

11:30 am-Special Congregational Meeting

2:00 pm-DOS Choir

Monday, December 2

1:00 pm-Chalice Circles

5:30 pm-Meditation

6:30 pm-Food Addicts in Recovery

Sunday, December 15

Share the Plate

10:00 am-Worship Service

11:30 am-Women's Retreat Gathering

2:00 pm-DOS Choir

Monday, December 16

1:00 pm-Chalice Circles

5:30 pm-Meditation

6:30 pm-Food Addicts in Recovery

Tuesday, December 17

8:30 am-Weight Watchers

5:00 pm-Board of Directors

Tuesday, December 3

8:30 am-Weight Watchers
11:30 am-Mid Valley Interfaith

Wednesday, December 4

6:30 pm-Facilities
6:30 pm-UUCOD Choir

Thursday, December 5

5:15 pm-Women's Night Out
7:00 pm-Bridge

Friday, December 6

8:00 am-Men's Breakfast
7:30 pm-RiZe Up Concert

Saturday, December 7

9:00 am-Church Council
2:00 pm-Scrabble

Sunday, December 8

Socks on the Second
10:00 am-Worship Service
11:30 am-New Membership Discussion
12:00 pm-Chalice Circles

Monday, December 9

5:30 pm-Meditation
6:30 pm-Food Addicts in Recovery

Tuesday, December 10

8:30 am-Weight Watchers
5:30 pm-Membership Committee

Wednesday, December 11

9:00 am-Safety Committee
6:30 pm-UUCOD Choir

Thursday, December 12

10:00 am-Stewardship Committee
6:30 pm-Social Justice Committee
7:00 pm-Bridge
7:00 pm-Jarabe Mexicano (Rancho Mirage Amphitheater)

Saturday, December 14

9:00 am-2nd Saturday Stroll
2:00 pm-Scrabble

Wednesday, December 18

3:00 pm-Chalice Circles
6:30 pm-UUCOD Choir

Thursday, December 19

7:00 pm-Bridge

Friday, December 20

5:00 pm-Private Event

Saturday, December 21

9:30 am-Chalice Circles
2:00 pm-Scrabble

Sunday, December 22

10:00 am-Worship Service
12:00 pm-Chalice Circles

Monday, December 23

5:30 pm-Meditation
6:30 pm-Food Addicts in Recovery

Tuesday, December 24

8:30 am-Weight Watchers
4:00 pm-Worship Committee
5:00 pm-Candle Light Christmas Eve Service with Choir and Carols

Wednesday, December 25

Christmas Day-Office Close
6:30 pm-UUCOD Choir

Thursday, December 26

7:00 pm-Bridge

Friday, December 27

1:30 pm-Afternoon Book Club

Sunday, December 29

10:00 am-Worship Service

Monday, December 30

5:30 pm-Meditation
6:30 pm-Food Addicts in Recovery

Tuesday, December 31

8:30 am-Weight Watchers

SOCIAL JUSTICE

December 1, Winter Break Food Blowout for Galilee Center Families

While Galilee still feeds about 10 overnight and 45 drop in farmworkers for a hot meal each day and about 35 asylees in transit each week, and will give out turkey or chicken food boxes with all the trimmings ready to cook for Thanksgiving for 500 families, Galilee will be in great need in December to feed kids on winter school break, from December 19 through January 3. This our final food collection of the year, resuming the first Sunday in January 2020.

Many east valley kids served by Galilee will feed themselves at home while their parents are at work. Galilee asks in addition to our usual list, please donate peanut butter and jelly and cereals for the kids. Bread is accepted only if you bring it to church fresh on Sun. Dec. 1st.. Check all packages you donate 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. Thanks!

**December 1 & 8, SafeHouse/Harrison House Patio Giving Table**

The SafeHouse of the Desert/Harrison House Holiday Gift Drive is in full swing! Thanks to everyone who took a "tag" the last two Sundays, identifying a gift or gifts you will be donating for this project. We will have more tags on a tree on December 1 & 8, so please stop by and see what you might do to brighten Christmas for one of the youth living at SafeHouse or Harrison House.

There are 14 young adults, ages 18 to 22 years old, currently living at SafeHouse's Harrison House. These young people benefit from having a safe place to live during the transition to more permanent living arrangements, and also receive support and counseling from the staff there. Their wishes often include supplies for apartment living.

SafeHouse of the Desert also operates an emergency shelter for youth, ages 11 to 17, who need housing as they await a more long-term placement. Some are former victims of human trafficking; others will be moving to a different foster home. These children receive therapy and support from social service agencies. Craft supplies, board games, puzzles, and coloring materials are favorite gifts for these children. Come to the table to sign up to give and choose a tag. Every donation is appreciated.

December 8, Socks on the Second for Homeless persons

Bring December 8 or leave ahead in the Well in the Desert brown bin in the UUCOD lobby. 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!

December 15, Share-the-Plate with SafeHouse operations

This month we will share the plate with SafeHouse for their operating fund, which includes their new pilot emergency shelter for young adults, including counseling, skill-building, transition to apartments with wrap-around services for six months, in addition to their other programs, including Harrison House. Please bring your checkbooks, make payable to UUCOD, and give generously so our treasurer can send the share as a group check. This collection is separate from the gift drive for SafeHouse and Harrison House residents, which is tabling Sundays on the patio.

☐ Donate Toys to the Children at Peter Pendleton Elementary School and Help Them Have A Joyful Holiday!! ☐

There are three more opportunities to drop off your toys in the Holiday Toy Box at UUCOD for the children at Peter Pendleton Elementary School in Coachella:

☐ Sunday, 12/1 ☐ Saturday, 12/7 at Roy Zimmerman's RiZe Up Concert ☐ Sunday, 12/8

Peter Pendleton has 540 students in Kindergarten - Fifth Grades, all of whom are living at or below the poverty line & receiving free/reduced meals. Please donate new, unwrapped toys for children, ages 6-11 & costing \$10-15. Don't forget to take any price tags off.

Wish List

- soccer balls
- action figures
- Barbie Dolls
- crafts & drawing supplies
- Hot Wheel Cars
- board games
- footballs
- playground balls
- card games

The Holiday Elves will be delivering the toys on Monday, 12/9 so don't delay! Any questions, call Denise Janssen Eager.

EVENTS



December 1, SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:

The Board has called for a short single-topic Congregational meeting after services on Sunday at 11:30 AM.

Zero Carbon Solar Proposal:

We can reach a net-carbon-neutral footprint at the church, an important step for our environmentally conscious community,

paid for completely by the savings in the electrical bill.

Pursuing a solar system at UUCOD has been a dream since early Green Sanctuary discussions began a decade ago. A couple of months ago, a congregant offered to fund it with a low interest loan, which made the project financially viable. The savings on our electrical bill will cover the loan payments so there is no change to our annual budget.

A solar system is a significant investment. We will have a Special Congregational Meeting on Dec 1 after services to vote on the proposal. The Facilities Committee has invested over 150 hours in research and prepared a Solar Proposal for your review. An email with the formal meeting notice and absentee ballots went out on November 15, and included the Solar Proposal which discusses the project, risks and financing.

The Facilities Committee, Finance Committee and the Board have all recommended that we accept

the proposal.

Feel free to direct any questions or concerns to Rod Belshee.

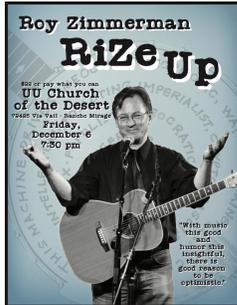
December 1, Holiday SCRIP Gift Cards:

Do u know what that means? It's the LAST SCRIP shopping day before the holidays. Purchase your Stocking stuffer gift cards -- lots of \$10 card options, too. Buy some extras to have on hand. She Sheryl Eaton on the patio after service to place your order & don't forget your checkbook!

December 6th, ROY ZIMMERMAN: RiZe Up

Ready for some humor!! Do Not Miss Roy Zimmerman's concert Friday, December 6th at 7:30 PM in our

Sanctuary. Roy has played at UUCOD in years past; he is always entertaining. Plan for an enjoyable evening of original songs and plenty of laughter.



ROY ZIMMERMAN: RiZe Up

Roy Zimmerman's signature blend of heart and hilarity has never been more necessary. *RiZe Up* is ninety minutes of Roy Zimmerman's original songs, a funny and forceful affirmation of Peace and Social Justice. It's laughter and encouragement for progressive-minded people who need a lot of both. Roy's songs have been heard on HBO and Showtime, and his videos have garnered tens of millions of views. He has recorded for Warner/Reprise Records. He's shared stages with Bill Maher, Ellen DeGeneres, Holly Near, Robin Williams, Arlo Guthrie, John Oliver, Kate Clinton and George Carlin, and tours the country constantly with his wife and co-writer Melanie Harby.

Video links:

"Thoughts and Prayers" - <https://www.facebook.com/39171898761/videos/10155446314448762/>

"Defenders of Marriage" - <https://www.facebook.com/39171898761/videos/10155525002063762/>

"COVFEFE - "Grounds for Impeachment" -

<https://www.facebook.com/39171898761/videos/323531971881214/>

"Religious Freedom" - <https://www.facebook.com/39171898761/videos/10155198379948762/>

"My Vote, My Voice, My Right" - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6-X-uBlqeVM>

December 8, New Member Discussion Group:

The Stewardship Committee welcomes all members who joined in 2019 to participate in a discussion to answer questions you might have about our church community and how it functions. Sunday, December 8 at 11:20.

December 12, Social BUUterfly Event:

Sign up for FREE Jarabe Mexicano concert (7:00 pm at the Rancho Mirage Amphitheater) on new sign up wall between doors to sanctuary.

December 15, UUCOD Women's Retreat:

Reminder for Women Retreaters! There will be a short meeting at 11:30 .a.m. after service December 15. The meeting will provide more information on the retreat activities and answer any questions participants may have. If you can't make the meeting, we'll email relevant information to you. Also remember that the final registration payment is due by December 15.

Please complete your payment to our administrator, Andrea. You can mail a check to our P.O. Box 2853 Rancho Mirage, CA 92270, drop it off in Treasurer's mailbox or drop it off in collection plate on Sunday. ***Please make sure to write in the Memo section "Women's Retreat"***

December 18, Invitation to Youth to Sing

Join the choir for Christmas Eve Service! Commit to ONE (1) rehearsal (Ages 10 and up) on December 18th 6:30-7:00 pm & Christmas Eve 4:00 pm-6:00 pm.

Questions? Email Jeffrey Huard at musicdirector@uucod.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Plate Collections for Sunday, November 24: \$309

Dear UUCOD friends,

I cannot tell you how touched (and surprised) I was to receive your acknowledgment of my years of service. Thanks to each of you who included cards and messages in the loving Memory Book which I shall treasure always. You brought back so many wonderful memories of my life with UUCOD.

That you reached out to members who have moved away was very special. One often thinks everyone knows ones history, but of course that can't be true. How can one know if they haven't been involved during those times? Thank you to all of our newer members who expressed thanks to me for my leadership. Just so you know: I ain't dead yet! LOL Looking forward to many more years of sharing our values and friendships. You are the wind beneath my wings!

With gratitude and affection,

Shirley LeMaster

BOARD NOTES

These board notes do not constitute official minutes of the Board of Directors meeting but are intended to inform the congregation of matters discussed at the meeting. Official minutes of this meeting will be available after the next Board meeting on December 17, 2019.

At the meeting of the UUCOD Board of Directors on November 19, 2019 the following matters were discussed and/or decided:

Attitude of Gratitude Cards were sent to welcome new members: Jane Betts-Stover, Ginger Hemingway, Derek Moore, Diane Norberg, Linda Savard, Robert Rancourt, Mack Rogers. The Board also sent cards of gratitude to Brian Joyner for assisting with the Auction and Marion Ellson who has worked tirelessly for years on our Directory and is retiring from that task.

The Board welcomed Rev. Dr. Don Stouder who shared his experiences in the role of a Community Minister. He will function in the Coachella Valley community as our UUCOD Affiliated Minister. He is our first Community Minister!

The Board approved a revision to the role of 2nd VP for the Board of Directors Manual. The Board also:

- Received a report on Auction results.
- Agreed on Theme of Gratitude and Generosity for 2020-21 Pledge Drive.
- Discussed 12/1/19 Special Congregational Meeting regarding Solar Proposal
- Discussed several possible concerts for Spring 2020.
- Moved to have the Cabaret on 2/15/20 be without an entry fee and agreed that donations for the Music Fund will be gratefully received.
- Discussed Agenda for Church Council Meeting on 12/7/19.
- Engaged in Board Visioning on improving communication between the Board and Committees plus on Spring 2020 Conversations between congregants and leader.

SAVE THE DATE

More info to follow on each of these upcoming events as their dates draw nearer:

Friday, January 10-Sunday, January 12, 2020: Women's Retreat in Borrego Springs

Contact: Vikki Porter

Saturday, January 24: Suzanne Sheridan Concert (<https://suzannesheridanmusic.com/>)

Contact: Rev. Barbara

Saturday, February 15, 2020: Cabaret Night

Contacts: Peter Mathews and Carol Lavoie

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

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Desert
72425 Via Vail - Rancho Mirage CA 92270 - (760) 321-0694

