

April 24, 2020



A cactus in bloom
Bringing cheer to the desert
And joy to my heart *Walter*

UUCOD Weekly Reminder

SERVICES

[Click Here to Join Our Worship Services at 10:00 AM](#)

Joys and Sorrows: Reverend Barbara would like to include your joys and sorrows in the Sunday Worship Service. If you want to have your name spoken in the reading, please include your name at the end of the message. If you do not include your name, she will respect your privacy. Email your joys and sorrows to uurevbarbara@gmail.com each week by Thursday at 9:00 pm.

April 26, 2020

Flower Power

We will celebrate the power of community with our Annual Volunteer Appreciation Sunday and Flower Communion. What is a communion if we are not together in person?

Thank you to all who contributed flower images and poetry for the Virtual Flower Communion.

Worship Leader: Rev. Barbara Fast

CALENDAR

Friday, April 24

1:30 pm-Afternoon Book Club-**ZOOM Meeting**

Sunday, April 26

10:00 am-Worship Service and Volunteer Appreciation-**Live Streaming**

Tuesday, April 28

4:00 pm-Worship Committee-**ZOOM Meeting**

Save This Date: Sunday, May 3

Join us at Facebook/UUCOD on Sunday, May 3 to celebrate Music Sunday; UUCOD's annual event to celebrate and acknowledge our wonderful music program. We have a great musical program in store for you and all donations to the collections basket on May 3 will go to support the Music Fund.

Save This Date: May 17, 2020

NOTICE: The Annual Congregational Meeting is now scheduled for Sunday May 17, 2020 following the Online Worship Service. You will receive more information regarding this Virtual ZOOM Congregational Meeting in the coming weeks.

This is a very important annual meeting where we hear from our Minister, President and our Standing Committee's. The Nominating Committee will present for your approval their proposed slate of candidates for Board positions for the coming year. Our Treasurer will present for your approval a budget for the coming year. This year you will also be voting on a proposed slate of Share the Plate recipients from our Social Justice Committee.

July 11th, Harvey Milk Breakfast, Palm Springs Convention Center

UUCOD is sponsoring a table of 10. See Jane Zaun for details.

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STAYING CONNECTED

Loving Kindness Meditation

***Thursdays in April and May
@ 12:00 - 12:30 pm***

***Weekly Online, Drop in
hosted by Reverend Barbara***

Loving Kindness meditation focuses on sending positive energy towards yourself and others. In these times when we are sheltering in place, it can increase positive emotions and feelings of social connection.



***Click the Zoom image to
Join the Meeting***

Coffee and Conversation

A Reading and Get Together

**Fridays in April and May
@ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm**

***Weekly Online Gathering
hosted by Peter Mathews***

Please join Peter every Friday for a reading and get together. It is an interesting time we find ourselves in. We'd love to hear what's coming up for you, and maybe share a solution or two.

We look forward to connecting with you online.



***Click the Zoom image to
Join the Meeting***

UU History Through Hymnal Readings - The 20th Century

**Tuesday, April 28
@ 3:00 pm - 4:15 pm**

***Deeper looks in to the readings
and authors with Reverend
Barbara.***

Everyone's invited! Hope to see you Tuesday.



***Click the Zoom image to
Join the Meeting***

Social BUUterflies - Happy Hour

**Saturdays in April and May
@ 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm**

***Weekly Online Gathering
hosted by Sheryl Eaton***

Join your UUCOD friends each Saturday through May at 5:00 pm for a virtual Happy Hour. Everyone's invited! Hope to see you Saturday.



***Click the Zoom image to
Join the Meeting***

WE GET THROUGH THIS TOGETHER

Someone said to me recently, "We pull through this by pulling together." Those words have stayed with me. They remind me that I am not in this alone, that we are in this together, and that we are strong when we lean on each other and pull together.

This week marks the beginning of another holy season. Ramadan begins today for Muslims across the world. In this time of physical distancing, collective grief, and economic hardship, the shared ritual of daily fasting from dawn to dusk is an act that invites compassion for those who experience hunger, charity and generosity to ensure others have enough, a deepened attention to spiritual practices, and a powerful experience of connection and community.

Shared rituals and practices are important right now. They help strengthen connection despite our physical distance. As our congregations continue to meet virtually, the challenges of feeling connected can grow. I have found that lighting my own chalice during virtual worship helps me feel more connected to the community and the experience.

This week also marks the 50th anniversary of the first Earth Day. What a time to remember how deeply interconnected our global world is. This isn't just about the spread of coronavirus; it's about how important global cooperation is for combatting pandemics and the climate crises; it's about the economy and how much our well-being and basic needs depend on others. On this Earth Day, may we remember we are knitted together and held by an inescapable social fabric.

This season elevates the values of interdependence, solidarity, and cooperation. Interestingly, Unitarian Universalism lives with an inherent tension between individualism and interdependence. The values of freedom, liberty, and the right of conscience are a core part of our principles as are the values of equity, responsibility, and interdependence. Ideally, this represents a middle path that celebrates the beauty of individuality and the power of beloved community, recognizing the Universalist message that liberation and salvation are not individual but collective.

What would it take for Unitarian Universalists to make sure people have what they need to get through this time?

Today, in our country, we see the stark tensions between these values on full display. We have people protesting stay at home orders in the name of liberty and public officials lifting them despite the risks to public health. On the other hand, we have one of the largest examples of global solidarity ever witnessed with people staying at home and doing everything in their power to help protect their neighbors, elders, those at higher risk, and everyone who must be out working in critical essential services.

Within Unitarian Universalism, our tendency toward individualism can create obstacles to caring for people in their most difficult moments. We are strongest at offering pastoral care, yet as financial and material needs grow, this is a time to take more seriously the practices and networks of mutual aid. How many times have you seen someone drop out of the congregation after being laid off or suffering a major setback? What would it take for Unitarian Universalists to make sure people have what they need to get through this time?

"We pull through this by pulling together." Everything about this pandemic shows us how interconnected we are – how much we need each other. This is a time for connection, for community, for cooperation and solidarity.

During this season when our lives and world are so different than we imagined they would be just a few short months ago, may we lean in more to the rituals and practices that remind us of our interdependence. May we lean more fully into our relationships and our community. May we all find ways to give more generously, in whatever ways we are able, so that everyone in our communities, large and small, feel held and will have enough.

May we invite the practices that keep us connected, compassionate, and loving in these days.

May loving community surround you and hold you.

Yours in love,
Susan Frederick-Gray, UUA President

BEHIND THE SCENES, SUNDAY STREAMING

From Your Production Team:

A couple of weeks ago, we gave a glimpse of behind the scenes. My how things change!

For the first few weeks we were live streaming from the sanctuary with an iPhone mounted on a tripod. And then just as we get that figured out, the new Stay-at-Home order came.

Proof! Changes, changes, changes. We responded by improving production processes and learning Broadcast technology.

The complexity of delivering a service from completely pre-recorded bits is enormous. Last week we created 13 new video shots and 6 new music tracks, then assembled them together with about a dozen re-used shots to assemble the service. Add the files for lyrics, credits, flowers and such and *we have over 50 moving parts*. We still have some mistakes, but each service gets better and we appreciate your patience.

We are stabilizing our remote productions. The technology and processes are largely in place, getting smoother every week. The real value of the service is in the content of the worship leaders and we have been fortunate to have great services by Rev. Ian, Rev. Barbara and Peter, along with great music provided by Jeffrey.

So what's next? We need Volunteers to join the Production Team.

We have no idea how long we will be doing remote services, but it might be quite a while. We have several critical roles with just a single person and no backup. If one person is gone, it can jeopardize getting the service out. ***If you have the project management skills to coordinate the moving parts of the front end, or the technical aptitude to learn the production in the back end, then we could use your help. Contact any of the team members to talk about how you can help.***

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Covid-19 testing is now available and free to all Riverside County Residents. You do not need to have symptoms or a doctors recommendation. Learn how to schedule an appointment and what to expect when you get there.

[Covid-19 testing is for all Riverside County Residents. Here's how to book an appointment](#)

Plate Collections and Donations in a Virtual World

Many Members and Friends have asked how the Stay at Home mandate and suspension of services in our sanctuary have impacted revenues for UUCOD. The short answer: pretty significantly. Online contributions on Sundays are less than half of our normal plate collections and we're also foregoing about \$850 in rental income each month of closure. Last Sunday's total virtual plate contributions were \$819. The good news is that pledge payments, that make up more than 70% of our revenues, continue on track for the most part.

Circumstances require we change the way we do some things so we're ramping up to allow you to contribute online through a variety of ways. We're currently working on a "Donate Now" option for our Facebook page. Also, starting this week, you'll receive an email by the end of each Sunday service asking if you would like to donate to our virtual collection plate by either credit card or check. You'll be able to opt out of receiving this email but we hope you'll consider continuing to support UUCOD virtually just as you have in the past. You can also donate for this week using the link below:

COLLECTIONS BASKET

You can also donate at <http://uucod.org/donations>. If you haven't created a profile, use the "Create Profile" on the right hand side of the page and enter the required information, including how you would like to pay for your donations. You can input credit card, checking account and/or savings account information for payment of donations on an ongoing basis and opt for one-time or recurring payments. It will take a few minutes to initially setup your profile but ongoing donations will be very simple: log in; specify the amount you want to contribute; determine the date of the donation; select the account from where you want funds drawn; select "one-time" or "periodic;" and select "process." The option also provides you a dashboard and reports on all of your contributions to UUCOD.

Not yet ready to jump into the virtual world? Send your checks to UUCOD at PO Box 2853, Rancho Mirage, CA 92270. If you want to pay by credit card or have funds

withdrawn from your bank account, email our treasurer, Jerry L'Hommedieu, at jlh1954@gmail.com or call him at 562-761-7889 to have your donation processed. Contact Jerry as well for any technical problems. Be safe and be well until we see one another again.

Spring Cleaning for a Good Cause

Has this shelter in place order prompted you to clean out those closets and cupboards? Please keep in mind that the UUCOD Yard Sale will be held in Spring 2021! Consider setting items aside for the sale in a corner of your home until then. Or if that is not an option to store them until Spring, contact Jane Betts-Stover and there is room in her garage! Items accepted: household items, decorative items, jewelry, antiques, books, clothing, holiday decorations, furniture. The last sale raised over \$3,000. Contact Jane Betts-Stover at jbettstover@comcast.net or (503) 422-3340 with questions.

ZOOM SCHEDULING REMINDER!

Please be sure to contact Carol Lavoie at mclavoie@aol.com to confirm that the time you wish to reserve for your zoom meeting is open. Checking the zoom schedule online and reserving without contacting Carol has caused some difficulties. The zoom online schedule does NOT show times 'penciled in' for groups who are still trying to confirm with their members on the best date for them.

News from the Care Team:

Linda Savard and Larry Rogers are on duty for the Care Team for the months of March and April. Anyone in need of support, please feel free to reach out to Linda Savard (562) 505-7665 or Larry Rogers (918) 805-1085. If they can't be reached, team chair is Bryna Blum (760) 485-9289.

UUCOD Scrip

During this time of social distancing, UUCOD is discontinuing ordering the physical scrip cards; however, you can sign up through the Shop With Scrip website (shopwithscrip.com/) to enroll in Presto Pay. You can order reloads to many (but not all cards) or get ScripNow (an electronic scrip card). Contact: Sheryl Eaton if you have any questions.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

UUCOD the VOTE: A first Look at Voter Suppression

Article 3 in a series

The UUCOD Social Justice Committee continues our series on voting with two items:

FIRST: Mail your ballot in the May 12, 2020 Special Election for California Senate District 12. You don't have to find a stamp--postage is prepaid! If you didn't receive a ballot or if you can only vote in person, contact the Riverside County Registrar of Voters at www.voteinfo.net.

Next: Efforts to suppress or restrict voting are still prevalent in some states despite the Voting Rights Act passed in 1964. A "gentle" introduction to issues of voter suppression is provided in the MSNBC series **"What's Eating America with Andrew Zimmern."** In episode 4 (March 8, 2020), Zimmern explores why many Americans are excluded from the ballot box by emarking on a journey through southern political "battleground" states. To find answers, he shares meals with voting rights advocates. This informative show is available on MSNBC on Demand (on Spectrum or check your TV provider), and is available from NBC/Universal (free if you sign up) and on YouTube television (with subscription, although a free trial is available).

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 3:00 pm, Fridays.

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