

May 2020



## UUCOD Monthly Newsletter

### MINISTER'S MESSAGE



Tim Nguyen-Photographer

**MAY 2020**

*"I deeply appreciate the ways you are all trying to hold the wellbeing of your community at the forefront. I am mindful of how difficult and stressful the current circumstances are. The questions of what to do and how to care for our communities in new and virtual ways are not easy. I pray all make time to tend to your own heart and spirit. Take gentle care of yourselves. It is easy to feel overwhelmed or inadequate in times like these."*

*From our UUA President, Susan Frederick-Gray*

I deeply appreciated her acknowledging that the stresses of adapting to living during a pandemic and *caring for our communities* under these circumstances is stressful, even when we have health and safe shelter. It is a humbling time.

As we come to the conclusion of another yearly cycles, with our virtual Music Service Sunday May 3, and then Our Zoom Annual Meeting on May 17th, my sincere thanks to all those who continue to step up and strive to serve and support the hopes and needs of this UUCOD community and who offer us ways to support the needs within this valley.

Thank you again, to those whose skills to get worship on line! There is so much connectivity and creativity being employed to bring you something that uplifts, encourages, sees reality, tells truth in love, and helps us face the day.

Thank you to those caring and calling to check in on folks. We are discovering ways to keep connected through virtual groups: meditation, UU history, cocktail hour, coffee hour, men's breakfast, women's night out, chalice circles.

Thank you: Caring, Worship, Justice, Stewardship, Finance, Facilities, Membership, Personnel, Nominating, Choir, Pledge Drive. Thank you: Kitchen Ministry Angels, Greeters and Welcomers, Sound folks and Worship Associates, Worship Leaders. Thanks to those who provide financial support this year and through the years.

Thanks to you who marched with PRIDE, the Climate Strike, Registered, voted, donated; who weeded & planted, repaired, constructed, & imagined. Thank you for Cabaret Night, the Suzanne Sheridan Concert, Roy Zimmerman concert, S2S2S. Thank you for our Auction, Garage sale, Social Butterflies, Butterfly Project, and the Weekend Women's Retreat.

I have a profound Namaste of gratitude that I serve *with* your Board of Directors and

President Jane. Thank you Andrea, for your good nature, welcoming spirit and attention to the tasks we ask of you. Thank you Jeffrey, for bringing out the vocal gifts of others, and for your gifts, among the many are your love of music, and worship which will be highlighted this Sunday.

Friends, for your joys and sorrows, candles, quiet, caring, for all our whole spirits: Our holey, holy spirits, from homecoming to Flower Communion... I cannot think of a better congregational union, than the one called Shared Ministry.

Let us remember, as we persist in these times, that we have shared so much joy, laughter, tears, frustrations, success, hopefully in proper proportion. I hope that you too can say you have some satisfaction for a year well spent.

A congregation is a people of shared values and aspiration, wherever we are.

I close with these words by Rabbi Tarfon. I was reminded of them by Rev Carolyn Price. I pass them onto you.

*Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief. Do justly, now. Love mercy, now. Walk humbly, now. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it.*

Namaste, Rev. B.

## SERVICES

**May 3, 2020**

***Music Sunday-Mending Our Souls With Music***

Come for the music that soothes your soul and lifts your spirit.

Worship Leader: Jeffrey Huard, Rev Barbara Fast, UUCOD Choir and Guests

**May 10, 2020**

***Mother's Day, Mother Earth, Healing Covid***

Feminine energy has always been about nurturing and healing. In this sermon, we will not only celebrate Mother's Day but we will also celebrate the nurturing and healing nature of our Mother Earth, and look at the ways that she is healing us, and the earth, in this weird age of Covid.

Worship Leader: Rev. Donald Stouder

Worship Associate: Bryna Blum

**May 17, 2020**

***The Moral Imagination in the Time of Pandemic***

A former supervisor once said to me: "I am not interested in how people behave when things are good. I am interested in how they behave when things are difficult." It has stayed with me for 40 years, that may be THE reason we should be here now.

The Annual Meeting will follow this service on The ZOOM Platform.

Worship Leader: Rev. Barbara Fast

**May 24, 2020**

***TBD***

Worship Leader: Dr. Jeralyn Brossfield

Worship Associate: Bryna Blum

**May 31, 2020**

***All My Boyfriends Have Cats***

*We have all been through a terribly difficult and frightening period in our lives, with an uncertain future. We need tools to process our feelings and emotions, and one of the best ways to do that is with Expressive Writing. In a previous sermon, Rev. Don spoke of using*

poetry workshops for this purpose. Join us this Sunday, along with your favorite journal and pen, as Rev. Don conducts a whimsical mini-version of a workshop virtually, and learn some great tools for personal recovery and growth. No experience required!

Worship Leader: Rev. Donald Stouder  
Worship Associate: Peter Mathews

## CALENDAR

### Friday, May 1

8:00 am-Men's Breakfast-**ZOOM Meeting**

### Saturday, May 2

5:00 pm-Social BUterflies-**ZOOM Meeting**

### Sunday, May 3

10:00 am-Worship Service-**Live Streaming**  
11:30 am-Butterfly Painting at Home Available

### Wednesday, May 6

6:30 pm-Facilities-**ZOOM Meeting**

### Thursday, May 7

12:00 pm-Loving Kindness Meditation-**ZOOM Meeting**  
5:30 pm-WNO-**ZOOM Meeting**

### Friday, May 8

11:00 am-Coffee and Conversation-**ZOOM Meeting**

### Saturday, May 9

5:00 pm-Social BUterflies-**ZOOM Meeting**

### Sunday, May 10

10:00 am-Worship Service-**Live Streaming**  
11:30 am-Finance Committee-**ZOOM Meeting**

### Tuesday, May 12

1:00 pm-Stewardship Committee-**ZOOM Meeting**  
5:30 pm-Membership Committee-**ZOOM Meeting**

### Thursday, May 14

12:00 pm-Loving Kindness Meditation-**ZOOM Meeting**  
6:30 pm-Social Justice Committee-**ZOOM Meeting**

### Friday, May 15

11:00 am-Coffee and Conversation-**ZOOM Meeting**

### Saturday, May 16

5:00 pm-Social BUterflies-**ZOOM Meeting**

### Sunday, May 17

10:00 am-Worship Service-**Live Streaming**  
11:30 am-Annual Congregational Meeting-**ZOOM Meeting**

### Tuesday, May 19

5:00 pm-Board of Directors-**ZOOM Meeting**

### Thursday, May 21

12:00 pm-Loving Kindness Meditation-**ZOOM Meeting**

### Friday, May 22

11:00 am-Coffee and Conversation-**ZOOM Meeting**  
1:30 pm-Afternoon Book Club-**ZOOM Meeting**

### Saturday, May 23

5:00 pm-Social BUterflies-**ZOOM Meeting**

### Sunday, May 24

10:00 am-Worship Service-**Live Streaming**

### Tuesday, May 26

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

### Thursday, May 28

12:00 pm-Loving Kindness Meditation-**ZOOM Meeting**

### Friday, May 29

11:00 am-Coffee and Conversation-**ZOOM Meeting**

### Saturday, May 30

5:00 pm-Social BUterflies-**ZOOM Meeting**

### Sunday, May 31

10:00 am-Worship Service-**Live Streaming**

## EVENTS



### **May 3 -- Music Sunday**

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.

### **May 17 -- Annual Congregational Meeting**

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.

For more details on voting and to download the agenda, please refer to the Notice of Annual Congregational Business Meeting email sent on April 29.

## **STAYING CONNECTED**

### *Loving Kindness Meditation*

**Thursdays in 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 on the link to**  
**Join the Meeting**

For those wishing to dial in by phone:  
+1 669 900 6833

Meeting ID: 822 160 492  
Password: 284353

### *Coffee and Conversation* *A Reading and Get Together*

**Fridays in May**  
**@ 11 am - 12 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 on the link to**  
**Join the Meeting**

For those wishing to dial in by phone:  
+1 669 900 6833

Meeting ID: 405 425 312  
Password: 010198

### *Social BUUterflies - Happy Hour*

**Saturdays in May**

**@ 5 pm - 6 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 on the link to  
Join the Meeting***

For those wishing to dial in by phone:  
+1 669 900 6833

Meeting ID: 535 854 983

***Women's Night Out***

**Thursday in May 7th  
@ 5:30 pm**

*Join us around our individual dining tables for a virtual gathering including dinner and conversation. All women are invited.*

***Click on the link to  
Join the Meeting***

For those wishing to dial in by phone:  
+1 669 900 6833

Meeting ID: 988 3809 7737

Password: 010181

**THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT**

**THOUGHTS ON SHELTERING-IN-PLACE**

In the beginning of our shelter-in-place orders, it seemed like this won't be too difficult. Just hang out at home for awhile...after all there's a lot to do here at home and so much got delayed with "I'll do it when I have time."

Well, now here we are some 8 weeks later. It feels like things are getting a bit more difficult. There are the days when all my coping skills are intact and I'm sailing along. Then there are those days when not much is intact at all and I'm treading water.

Anyone else feel like that too?

And then there is the virus—a consciousness of virus all the time. A cough used to mean my allergy acting up. Now a cough elicits thoughts of "Uh Oh, Maybe this is "It". Which leads me immediately to "have I told everyone how much I love them".

Then there's the news; the incessant update of new cases and increasing death rates all presented quite clinically. I wonder about their lives, who they loved, who loved them. Our first Principle says: The inherent dignity and worth of every person; that's every single one of the now many thousands who have died.

And every single one of you!!

There is another more comforting thought from Robert Fulghum's book, "All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten": "When you go out in the world, watch out for traffic, hold hands, and stick together."

I would love to hold all of your hands now; I would love to literally feel that physical sense of connection, a sense of belonging, each to the other. A knowing and belief that we are, in fact, walking together in the world, holding hands, trusting in each other for support and love. Knowing deep in our bones that we are not alone in this journey; we are here for each other.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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.

## **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 \$322. 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; specific 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 [jklh1954@gmail.com](mailto:jklh1954@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](mailto:jbettstover@comcast.net) or (503) 422-3340 with questions.

## **ZOOM SCHEDULING REMINDER!**

Please be sure to contact Carol Lavoie at [mclavoie@aol.com](mailto: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:**

"These are often confusing and hard times for all- if you find yourself angry, hurt or sad please know we are here to listen. Please call and contact us at these numbers so we may offer our ear, empathy, and hopefully help." Bryna Blum the Committee Chair and Frank Riela are on duty for the Care Team for the months of May and June. Anyone in need of support, please feel free to reach out to either *Frank (760) 902-0283 frank.riela@yahoo.it* or *Bryna Blum (760) 485-9289 bb@brynab.me*

We are here for you...  
Bryna

### **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/](http://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 (Article 4)**

**"To make it hard, to make it difficult almost impossible for people to cast a vote is not in keeping with the democratic process." Congressman John Lewis**



This week our focus shifts to actions we can take to assure that voting rights are protected and to encourage all eligible voters to vote. The most important action for each of us is to make sure that we vote in all elections. For those living in California Senate District 28 (which includes the entire Coachella Valley), mail your ballot in the Special Election as soon as possible but no later than May 12, 2020 (this is a "vote by mail" election. If you need assistance or to check the status of a mailed ballot, go to the Riverside County Registrar of Voters web page at [www.voteinfo.net](http://www.voteinfo.net)). *Be sure you sign the envelope and fill in your voting address: skipping this step is the most common reason for rejection of mailed ballots.*

Immediate action is needed across the country to assure that all eligible voters are included in the 2020 election. Several national organizations have projects underway. We will describe two of these this week and add more organizations in future articles.

**Reclaim Our Vote:** <https://actionnetwork.org/forms/reclaim-our-vote-signup> is focused on increasing registration and turnout among voters of color in voter suppression states, particularly in the South. With the other major organizations, they contact voters of color in key voter suppression states - by phone, mail, texting, and door-to-door - through billboards and radio ads, to ask voters of color to check their registration status, re-register, and vote. For more information or to join their effort, visit their web page:

**When We All Vote:** <https://www.whenweallvote.org> Launched by Michelle Obama and others, When We All Vote is on a mission to increase participation in every election and close the race and age voting gap by changing the culture around voting, harnessing grassroots energy, and through strategic partnerships to reach every American. Check the web page for events in our area---and watch for the next "couch party" with a DJ for entertainment and using a texting app to send messages to voters.

**For more information on voting and the May 12 election, previous newsletters are available on the UUCOD web page:** <http://uucod.org/Newsletter>

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**Food on the First and Socks on the Second:** Before we were sheltering in place, we were giving plentiful donations of food and socks to local organizations. Because it is impossible to collect physical items now, the Social Justice Committee - upon recommendation by UUCOD's COVID-19 Task Force - has decided to suspend both programs until the fall.

A much-belated thank you to everyone who brought food to UUCOD on Sunday, March 1st for Food on the First. Interrupted by the arrival of the Coronavirus, your generous

donations of bags of rice and pinto beans, jars of peanut butter, cans of soup, and packages of rice & beans were finally delivered to Galilee Center this past week. Hearing that UUCOD was making a delivery in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Donations Coordinator purposely came out to express her gratitude for all our Congregation has done over the years for the disadvantaged children, families, and farmworkers in the East Coachella Valley who are struggling now more than ever!

### **Share the Plate on May 17: Galilee Center**

Every week the number of families needing food assistance exceeds the supply. Last week KMIR's Regina Yurrita visited Galilee Center and submitted this report ***Eastern Coachella Families Looking For Food Assistance Triple***.

Galilee Center is able to do what they do because of what we do. We, living through our 7 principles, give. Please give generously on Share the Plate Sunday.

## **BOARD NOTES**

### **Board Notes from April 21, 2020**

These 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 May 19, 2020.

At the meeting of the UUCOD Board of Directors on April 21, 2020 the following matters were discussed and/or decided:

Attitude of Gratitude Cards were sent to Jonathan Fast, Michael Allen, Vikki Porter, Rod Belshee, Jack Fitzsimmons, Jeffrey Huard, Dr. Robert and Leslie Gebhart, Sheryl Eaton, Glenn Yamaguchi, Joni Paddock, and Peter Mathews.

Received Gene Kain's presentation of a proposed art mural in the foyer of UUCOD building.

Heard Treasurer's Update on proposed 2020-21 Budget.

Moved to approve Susan Hannon for Congregational approval as a Nominating Committee Member.

Moved to approve a Personnel Policy and Employee Handbook.

Received a report from the COVID19 Response Team on status of programs and/or concerns within the congregation.

Discussed Virtual Worship Services.

Discussed the Annual Congregational Business Meeting via Virtual process.

## **SAVE THE DATE**

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

Harvey Milk Breakfast has been postponed to July 11, 2020. There are 10 seats available. Please let Jane Zaun know if you are interested in attending. UUCOD is sponsoring a table of 10. See Jane Zaun for details.

***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](mailto:admin@uucod.org) asking to reserve space. The newsletter needs to be on the website by 3 pm, Fridays.

[Visit our website](#)

