

June 2020



UUCOD Monthly Newsletter

OUR BUILDING IS CLOSED BUT OUR "CHURCH" IS OPEN



These are confusing and conflicting times. Stay in Quarantine? Start to open up? Something in-between? At UUCOD, we are continuing to keep the building closed, but our "church" is open.

Governor Newsom and Riverside County have indicated churches may begin in-person services with restrictions. Those restrictions include attendance of no more than 25% of capacity, increased disinfecting and other restrictions. In addition the Governor and the

CDC continue to advise that older adults and those with other health issues are at higher risk for infection, hospitalization, poor outcomes including death.

We are closely monitoring the guidance from the CDC, the Governor and the Unitarian Universalist Association. Many, many questions remain. We do not believe we can open safely at this time.

Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, our UUA President, said in her recent article to UU Congregations that In the midst of uncertainty, it is the UUA's strong recommendation that congregations plan for ongoing virtual gathering and operations through May 2021.

Additionally the UUA states: "We are guided by science and our deepest values, not politics, when we urge congregations to not resume full in-person operations until concrete public health criteria are met. The criteria we encourage you to adopt will likely be more stringent than schools and businesses around you, for the following reasons:"

1. "The membership of most UU congregations is an older, more vulnerable population than the general public."
2. "We do not want congregational staff and ministers to be put at risk."
3. "A normally-operating congregation presents too many opportunities to spread a highly contagious respiratory virus like COVID-19."

We want to be together as much as you do and over the coming months, we will continue to carefully follow the status of COVID19 and keep you informed as to our thinking and decisions.

Stay Healthy, Stay Safe,
Rev. Barbara and President Jane

SERVICES

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: Bob Rancourt

June 7, 2020

Pride Is In Our Lives

This is a multi voiced service appreciating some of the impact of PRIDE in our lives: Heart-opening, heartbreaking. You are invited to share your PRIDE joys and Sorrows.

Worship Leader: Rev. Barbara Fast

June 14, 2020

Wholeness and Brokenness

Many people are visibly hurting, but at least as many are hurting *invisibly* on the inside. How can we help?

Worship Leader: Rabbi Cantor Cheri Weiss

Worship Associate: Bryna Blum

June 21, 2020

This Divine Cosmos

It is the summer solstice and scientific miracles are inviting us to view the cosmos in new and deeper ways. Join us.

Worship Leader: Rev. Barbara Fast

June 28, 2020

Deaf Dad

My journey as a parent is not quite what you would consider normal, though in some circles it is. But something has happened to my comfortable world as a father recently, and I want to share that story. For some in the LGBTQ community this would be a story of a gay man choosing to raise a family that went on to do great things. But for me it's more personal than that. It's the story of an ordinary father watching his adult son experience a life-changing event in his life, and how I finally figured out how to show up and do my job.

Worship Leader: Rev. Donald Stouder

Worship Associate: Joni Paddock

COLLECTIONS BASKET

CALENDAR

Saturday, May 30

5:00 pm-Social BUUtterflies-ZOOM Meeting

Sunday, May 31

10:00 am-Worship Service-Live Streaming

Thursday, June 18

12:00 pm-Loving Kindness Meditation-ZOOM Meeting

6:30 pm-Social Justice Committee-ZOOM Meeting

Friday, June 19

11:00 am-Coffee and Conversation-

Thursday, June 4
5:30 pm-WNO-ZOOM Meeting

Friday, June 5
8:00 am-Men's Breakfast-ZOOM Meeting

Saturday, June 6
5:00 pm-Social BUUterflies-ZOOM Meeting

Sunday, June 7
10:00 am-Worship Service-Live Streaming

Wednesday, June 10
4:00 pm-UUCOD The Vote Virtual Event-ZOOM Meeting
6:30 pm-Facilities-ZOOM Meeting

Thursday, June 11
12:00 pm-Loving Kindness Meditation-ZOOM Meeting

Friday, June 12
11:00 am-Coffee and Conversation-ZOOM Meeting

Saturday, June 13
5:00 pm-Social BUUterflies-ZOOM Meeting

Sunday, June 14
10:00 am-Worship Service-Live Streaming
11:30 am-Finance Committee-ZOOM Meeting

Tuesday, June 16
1:00 pm-Stewardship Committee-ZOOM Meeting
5:30 pm-Membership Committee-ZOOM Meeting

ZOOM Meeting

Saturday, June 20
5:00 pm-Social BUUterflies-ZOOM Meeting

Sunday, June 21
10:00 am-Worship Service-Live Streaming

Tuesday, June 23
5:00 pm-Board of Directors-ZOOM Meeting

Thursday, June 25
12:00 pm-Loving Kindness Meditation-ZOOM Meeting

Friday, June 26
11:00 am-Coffee and Conversation-ZOOM Meeting
1:30 pm-Afternoon Book Club-ZOOM Meeting

Saturday, June 27
5:00 pm-Social BUUterflies-ZOOM Meeting

Sunday, June 28
10:00 am-Worship Service-Live Streaming

Tuesday, June 30
4:00 pm-Worship Committee-ZOOM Meeting

EVENTS



UUCOD the Vote "How We Thrive" Virtual Event
Wednesday, June 10 @ 4 pm

Several national nonpartisan organizations are working to mobilize voters and increase voter turnout. Come join us via Zoom to find out about some of these organizations and how easy it is to make a difference from home in this year's crucial elections. We will dialog on ways to ensure people's right to vote and talk about texting, phone calling and letter writing campaigns. See what fits you best. Taking action through one of these groups may be just the prescription to chase away the pandemic blues!

STAYING CONNECTED

All links to Zoom meetings are removed from the web version of the newsletter.

Please use these links to access Zoom meetings.

Loving Kindness Meditation

Thursdays, @ 12:00 - 12:30 pm

Coffee and Conversation A Reading and Get Together

Fridays, @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Social BUUterflies - Happy Hour

Saturdays, @ 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Women's Night Out

Thursday, June 4th @ 5:30 pm

Men's Breakfast

Friday, June 5th @ 8:00 am

UU GENERAL ASSEMBLY - JUNE 2020

We have a big experiment coming up for the Unitarian Universalist Association and that is our first ever Virtual General Assembly (GA) – our annual gathering of UUs from across our congregations and across the world – happening June 24-28! I invite you, as leaders in your congregation, to register for virtual GA and to share the invitation with your congregation.

[Register for Virtual General Assembly](#)

Two weeks ago, I got a taste of some of the powerful content that will be a part of virtual GA when I participated in the UU the Vote: How We Thrive online event. It began with a rendition of ["We Shall Be Known" by MaMuse](#) performed by the UU the Vote choir and conducted by the incredible Jen Hayman, Music Director at All Souls Church Unitarian in Washington, D.C.

As the music began, my eyes filled with tears. To hear Unitarian Universalists from all over the country, many of whom I know and love, singing in a virtual space and being able to sing along with them – it moved my heart and spirit in a way that only music can. I needed it.

There are so many things I miss in this time of physical distance. There have also been beautiful, unexpected gifts. It is my hope that we will continue with some of the new ways we've found to gather even after this pandemic, because we've found them to be inclusive and meaningful. This includes opportunities created by a 100% virtual General Assembly.

For example, I invite your congregation to make GA Sunday Morning Worship your service on June 28. The Rev. Joan Javier Duval, minister of the Unitarian Church of Montpelier, Vermont, is leading the service, along with the Rev. Mykal Slack, Community Minister for Worship and Spiritual Care for Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU), and Benjie Messer, Music Director at the UU Congregation of Phoenix who will lead the over 140 member virtual choir! I've also been told that Ysaye Barnwell and Emma's Revolution will perform during the service.

*Imagine 1,000 UU congregations and 100,000 UUs
sharing worship that reaches across the globe!*

The service will stream live two times on Sunday, at 10 a.m. Eastern/9 a.m. Central and again at 10 a.m. Pacific/11 a.m. Mountain. Imagine having 1,000 congregations and 100,000 UU's sharing worship that reaches across the globe!

I am excited to experience and learn from our virtual business sessions. This year, the [reduced costs](#) may make it possible for every congregation to send a delegate to GA. What will we learn from this experience that we can carry forward to continue to have the governance of the Association be more widely participatory and inclusive?

As always, GA will feature prominent leaders from within and beyond our tradition. I am looking forward to the Ware Lecture by Naomi Klein, as well as our Featured Speaker Series that includes authors such as Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz, Robyn Henderson-Espinoza, Howard Bryant, and Unitarian Universalists Rosemary Bray McNatt and Elías Ortega (Presidents of Starr King School for the Ministry and Meadville Lombard Theological School, respectively), and former UUA President John Buehrens.

While I will dearly miss being in person with thousands of Unitarian Universalists, I am excited about the opportunity virtual GA offers for more people to be a part of the conversations, inspiration, and connection of GA. We are definitely learning as we go. Trying to pull off a large-scale virtual event in such a short time, in the midst of a global pandemic, is an enormous lift. So I remember my own words: "Perfection is not the goal." Connection, community, spiritual growth, love, and justice – these are the values that guide us and bring us together.

Thank you for amplifying the information for GA with your congregation. I hope you and your congregation will participate in new ways through the new opportunities available at this year's virtual General Assembly.

Yours in community,

Susan

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ZOOM VOLUNTEERS REQUESTED:

There is need for one or more detail-oriented volunteers to help with the ZOOM calendar. In addition to maintaining a calendar of all ZOOM meetings to avoid conflicting times, other tasks include taking requests either verbal or email, scheduling the meeting in ZOOM, and sending an invitation to the requesting person. Please send an email to jnzaun@yahoo.com if you are able to assist with our ZOOM scheduling.

News from the Care Team:

These are often confusing and hard times for all. Please know we are here to listen. Anyone in need of support, please reach out to either Frank Riela or Bryna Blum. They are on call for May and June. Their information can be found in the UU Directory.

Sunday Production Team

The Sunday Services are a huge way for us to stay connected. We get to see the faces of our worship associates and worship leaders, hear our musicians, and share our joys and sorrows. Connection is important. We estimate that more than 80% of our Sunday attendees have joined us on the online services. If you haven't succeeded yet, call Fran 971-404-9425 or Rod 971-494-9450 for help getting connected.

New volunteers are helping with the production. Sandy and Margaret took major behind-the-scenes roles this week, and two more volunteers are in the wings. Great stuff! Rod is phasing out for the summer to disappear kayaking, and Vikki and Michael continue with huge roles. The team finds it very rewarding to present the results of their work to the congregation each week.

Michael still needs backup at the technical end, especially since we may be doing online services for quite some time. If you or someone you know is interested in learning the technical aspects of putting a broadcast together, please contact Rod.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Good news on voting issues last week! A U.S. District Judge ruled a Florida law unconstitutional. The law requires felons to pay all legal fees and fines before voting and involves a state law to implement a 2016 ballot measure approved by Florida voters to automatically restore the right to vote for many felons who have completed their sentences. Though appeals are likely to follow, this is a major "win" for the people of Florida and the hard work of the organization that led the fight to get this ballot amendment passed.



Vote-By-Mail Successes: Two governors, one Republican and one Democrat, have ordered absentee ballot applications mailed to all registered voters for upcoming elections. This makes it possible for all voters to vote by mail---a key component of expanding voter participation and countering voter suppression.

Share the Plate 2020-2021--Thank YOU!

The Social Justice Committee thanks you for voting for your favorite nonprofit organizations in UUCOD's first Congregation-wide Share the Plate Recipients Election. In no particular order, the recipients for October 2020 - June 2021 are:

- **FIND Food Bank**
- **Planned Parenthood**
- **SafeHouse of the Desert**
- **Well in the Desert**
- **Galilee Center**
- **Coachella Valley Volunteers in Medicine**
- **Safe Schools Desert Cities**
- **Ophelia Project**
- **Palm Springs Animal Shelter**
-

Putting UU values and principles into action, you voted for organizations on the frontlines working directly with many of our Coachella Valley neighbors who are affected by COVID-19.

The next task will be to determine which month to showcase each recipient. If you would like to help with this, please contact Denise Janssen Eager.

June's Share the Plate: Coachella Valley Moms Demand Action

Our June Share the Plate recipient is *Coachella Valley Moms Demand Action*. It's parent organization, Moms Demand Action for Sensible Gun Laws, is a grassroots movement of Americans fighting for public safety measures that can protect people from gun violence. Moms Demand Action has a chapter in every state and within those chapters, hundreds of local groups. During our Sunday, June 21st Sunday Service, Jimmi Thomas from our local *Coachella Valley Moms Demand Action* group will share how they are encouraging a culture of responsible gun ownership. This has become even more challenging due to COVID-19's increase in fear-based gun purchases.

Founded by a mother of 5 kids, Shannon Watts, the day after Sandy Hook Elementary's mass murder, she started a Facebook group with the message that all Americans can and should do more to reduce gun violence. The online conversation turned into a movement of moms, dads, students, families, concerned citizens and survivors working together with our partners in the gun violence prevention movement to end this uniquely American crisis. Knowing that gun violence is preventable, they are committed to doing what it takes to keep all families safe.

Coachella Valley Moms Demand Action is able work on keeping all of us safe because of what we do. We, living through our 7 principles, give. Please give generously on Share the Plate Sunday.

BOARD NOTES

Board Notes

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 June 16, 2020.

At the meeting of the UUCOD Board of Directors on May 19, 2020 the following matters were discussed and/or decided:

- Attitude of Gratitude Card was sent to Fran Hoag.
- Heard a proposal from the Chair of Social Justice Committee regarding Share the Plate in summer.
- Heard a report from 1st Vice President on additional volunteers helping in production of Sunday Worship Service as well as continued need for technical back-up!
- Heard a Report from the 2nd Vice President regarding Membership Committee's work on virtual inductions.
- Received a Treasurer's report that the Spirit Grant Foundation of UU San Diego offered a no strings attached Spirit Grant to UU congregations in Southern California equal to 2% of their prior year's budget. The Treasurer responded securing an unconditional \$3000 for UUCOD.
- Discussed the possibility of a virtual auction in the fall.
- Debriefed the Virtual Annual Congregational Business Meeting
- Discussed the status of rooftop solar for our building. Agreed to move forward with installation of solar panels using a different contractor.
- For the 2020 Harvey Milk Diversity Breakfast, UUCOD had in January purchased a "sponsoring organization" table of 10 at a cost of \$650. Typically in past years, congregants purchased individual tickets for \$65 each resulting in no net cost to the church. Due to the COVID19 crisis the Breakfast was cancelled.
- Since the Harvey Milk Diversity Breakfast is the primary sponsor of Gay-Straight Alliance clubs in the Coachella Valley schools, after some discussion, the Board moved to donate the entire \$650.00 cost of our table to the Harvey Milk Breakfast to support the 2020-2021 Gay-Straight Alliances at local schools.

We invite congregants to purchase a ticket, as members and friends have done in past years, to support UUCOD's contribution to the Gay-Straight Alliances.

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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