

July 2020



UUCOD Monthly Newsletter

MINISTER'S MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

Rebecca Elson was an astronomer and poet. She died too young. Here is a bit from her poem, *Antidotes to Fear of Death*.

*Sometimes as an antidote
To fear of death,
I eat the stars.
Those nights, lying on my back,
I suck them from the quenching dark
Til they are all, all inside me,
Pepper hot and sharp...*

It has been a full year of hope and frustration, fear and inspiration. It has been a year here at UUCOD of growing our shared ministry: sustaining, supporting, challenging, celebrating, adapting, streaming, and zooming, as we face the strain of living in pandemic times and civic uprisings. It has been a year of too much violence and death.

We have seen the evil of unrestrained police power used against black individuals and peaceful protesters. Some days, I am ashamed of what we as a nation have allowed this to become who we are. But it is not all of what or who we are.

As I write, the Annual end of June UU conference called General Assembly is streaming online. "GA" reminds me that there is more work I should be doing at a time when I feel the need for time to retreat, restore, renew.

Yes there is a great need for a restoration of justice, a great need for each of us personally as well as institutionally to be willing to see, reckon with, and change the history of injustice towards people of color into a future of greater equality. To welcome and celebrate the full humanity and worth of every person, in just, loving, and tangible ways.

To do that I am called to wrestle with, discern and share, as I am able, the deep truth we all know: that we live and we will die. So now, while we can, how do we make meaning of all of this? How do we make our lives worthy of this gift? To be able to do that I need to not only go into my room, shut the door and be still, I also need time to go out into nature, drink up the worlds beauty and terror, maybe even *eat* the stars. Time to come into my senses. We all need that.

So you know, I will be out of the pulpit until September. In July, I am on call for pastoral emergencies through July 8th. I will be on vacation from July 9-31. Rev. Don will be on call for critical pastoral emergencies during that time. Your Care Team leaders will take pastoral calls.

Take good care of each other. I know you do that well.

SERVICES

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

July 5, 2020

A Patriotic Faith

For us religious liberals, patriotism is not a simple matter; like the rest of life, it is complicated, and we'll never all agree on one single interpretation of it. Yet we know we share certain liberal religious ideals that relate directly to patriotism: the dream of a peaceful world where no person is exploited or subjugated; the dream of life in balance; the dream of a more harmonious existence for all humanity.

Worship Leader: Rev. Donald Stouder

July 12, 2020

Widening the Circle of Concern, Part One

Six weeks ago, the UUA released a document that will drive the direction and focus of our religious denomination for decades to come. In this first of a three-sermon series, Rev Don will help us understand "Widening the Circle of Concern; Report of the UUA Commission on Institutional Change". This is not a dry document but a call to justice, and it deserves our attention and consideration. Links to the document are here: <https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/cic/widening>

Worship Leader: Rev. Donald Stouder

July 19, 2020

New Worlds, Terrifying Monsters, and Impossible Things

The world is changing around us in so many ways. Things we knew to be certain are unsettled. And we're seeing things that have been happening a long time with new clarity. How do we imagine a new world on the other side of all of this change?

Worship Leader: Rev. Ian Challis

July 26, 2020

Widening the Circle of Concern, Part Two

Several weeks ago, the UUA released a document that will drive the direction and focus of our religious denomination for decades to come. In this second of a three-sermon series, Rev Don will help us understand "Widening the Circle of Concern; Report of the UUA Commission on Institutional Change". Join us as we talk about what a "radical universalism" might look like. Links to the document are here: <https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/cic/widening>

Worship Leader: Rev. Donald Stouder

COLLECTIONS BASKET

THOUGHTS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

It's been a year. One year since your Board and my presidency began.

We were in the process of having new flooring installed in the foyer, hall and restrooms. We had to close the church for one week, and we thought that was stressful. We didn't know that would be just a rehearsal for us.

We experienced such vitality and passion in our fall and winter months with incredible energy for our community experiences including a yard sale, auction, concert series, chili and cornbread cook-off, and 20 new members. We worked together; we each contributed in our own unique way to the "buzz" felt by all. Our community was strong.

As COVID19 has changed our world, what I see is we continue to work together, to sustain, support and nurture each other.

Now as we reel from the historical and current violence against people of color, let's lean into our principles and our values to examine our individual and collective history. While we continue to keep ourselves and others safe from the virus, let's use this time to deeply and honestly live our mission: UUCOD-a Sanctuary for diversity, spiritual growth and social justice.

Let us continue to embrace our community, to participate as we are able in our new life on Zoom, to be willing to ask for help, and to offer thanks when we receive it. We are each unique, each valuable, each precious.

Stay Connected--Our Community IS strong!!

CALENDAR

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 BUterflies-**ZOOM Meeting**

Sunday, June 28

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

11:00 am-Sunday Together-**Zoom Meeting**

Thursday, July 2

12:00 pm-Loving Kindness Meditation-
ZOOM Meeting

5:00 pm-WNO-**ZOOM Meeting**

Friday, July 3

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

11:00 am-Coffee and Conversation-
ZOOM Meeting

Saturday, July 4

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

Tuesday, July 14

5:30 pm-Membership Committee-**ZOOM Meeting**

Thursday, July 16

12:00 pm-Loving Kindness Meditation-
ZOOM Meeting

Friday, July 17

11:00 am-Coffee and Conversation-
ZOOM Meeting

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

Saturday, July 18

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

Sunday, July 19

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

11:00 am-Sunday Together-**Zoom Meeting**

Tuesday, July 21

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

Thursday, July 23

12:00 pm-Loving Kindness Meditation-

Sunday, July 510:00 am-Worship Service-**Live****Streaming**11:00 am-Sunday Together-**Zoom Meeting****Thursday, July 9**

12:00 pm-Loving Kindness Meditation-

ZOOM Meeting6:30 pm-Social Justice Committee-**ZOOM Meeting****Friday, July 10**11:00 am-Coffee and Conversation-**ZOOM Meeting****Saturday, July 11**5:00 pm-Social BUUterflies-**ZOOM Meeting****Sunday, July 12**10:00 am-Worship Service-**Live****Streaming**11:00 am-Sunday Together-**Zoom Meeting**11:30 am-Finance Committee-**ZOOM Meeting****ZOOM Meeting****Friday, July 24**11:00 am-Coffee and Conversation-**ZOOM Meeting****Saturday, July 25**5:00 pm-Social BUUterflies-**ZOOM Meeting****Sunday, July 26**10:00 am-Worship Service-**Live****Streaming**11:00 am-Sunday Together-**Zoom Meeting****Tuesday, July 28**4:30 pm-Worship Committee-**Zoom Meeting****Thursday, July 30**12:00 pm-Loving Kindness Meditation-**ZOOM Meeting****Friday, July 31**11:00 am-Coffee and Conversation-**ZOOM Meeting**

EVENTS

UUCOD the Vote Rocks the GA 100K Challenge

On June 25, members of our congregation participated in the General Assembly's 100K Challenge. We joined a phone bank of 80 people at the Virtual General Assembly to challenge voter suppression in Texas. It was very rewarding when we were able to talk to a person about absentee ballots, early voting and polling locations. Many voters were glad to receive our calls. Together we all made more than 28K calls in 2 hours. Now that's democracy in action!

Voter suppression is very real. From *When We All Vote*: In the 15 years before it was repealed in 2013, the Voting Rights Act blocked 86 election changes that would have further disenfranchised voters. Hundreds more were withdrawn after further Justice Department pushback, and even more were never put forward because they wouldn't pass.

Thank you to *Margaret Beaman, Denise Janssen Eager, Chris Eager, Gloria Kapp, Rod Belshee, Fran Hoag, Tracy Flynn, Sue Caspari, and Ros & Earl Hoover* for taking a step up to defend democracy.

Saturday, June 27 @ 2:00 – 4:30 pm

Join Zoom Phonebank Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/98432829559?pwd=SDBFSDAxZWg3UHJqbUZVenA5UTB6QT09>

Inspired by our success, we have signed up for another shift at the GA. Would you like to join us? We'll meet up on Zoom and you'll be trained on how to use the system. We'll keep the Zoom room open during the calls to help you if you need it. At 4:00 we will get back together and share our successes.

Contact [Fran Hoag](#) at 971-404-9450 for more information and to sign up. She will make sure you are set up and ready to go.

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

Sundays Together

Sundays, @ 11:00 am

Join us for lively conversation after the worship service. With Zoom we can break into small groups. You can move from group to group just as you did on the patio after service. We'll explain how to do it when you arrive.

Women's Night Out

Thursday, July 2nd @ 5:30 pm

Men's Breakfast

Friday, July 3rd @ 8:00 am

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Plate Collections for Sunday, June 21st: \$662. \$331 will be sent to Mom's Demand Action.

News from the Care Team:

In these confusing and exhausting times, please know your Care Team is here for you. Anyone in need of support, please reach out to either Margaret Beaman or Bryna Blum. They are on call for July and August and, care about what you need to share.... Their information can be found in the UU Directory.

Take care,
Bryna

Want to Join a Chalice Circle?

UUCOD Chalice Circles have been meeting for the last nine months. During covid-19 we continue to meet using the zoom platform. The conversations have been thoughtful, encouraging, fun and at times sad. Some of our topics have been: letting go, friendship, humor, aging, belonging, and gifts It's an opportunity to meet with like minded people and share what is close to our hearts during these difficult times.

Typically we meet once a month, usually the third week of the month. We would like to welcome new members to our Chalice Circles. If you are interested in joining us, starting in July please drop a note to Andrea, our office administrator at admin@uucod.org. We look forward to having you join us.

EASIER ZOOM SCHEDULING

Zoom scheduling gets easier to help us stay connected!

Katy Faas will manage the Zoom calendar and scheduling providing one-stop shopping. We also simplified running your meeting---you no longer need to log into the Zoom portal; you will just click on the same link you distribute to your attendees. Easy peasy. And we won't all be named Jane Zaun!

Deep bows of gratitude to Carol Lavoie for managing the Zoom calendar up to this point and to Fran Hoag for figuring out how to simplify the process.

The Basics:

- The links for currently scheduled and recurring meetings remain the same.
- All new meetings will be scheduled by emailing Katy Faas at:
- katyfaas@hotmail.com
- The Password to the Zoom portal has changed and is restricted.

Tips:

- For moderators of currently active recurring meetings, the expiration date of your meeting has been set at May 31, 2021. If you want to change or reduce the expiration date, please email Katy with your request.
- Current moderators will receive a document with instructions on accessing Zoom without going through the Zoom portal.
- All new moderators will be supplied with the same document when they arrange their meeting with Katy.
- For those people hosting Zoom meetings on a personal Zoom account, please send Katy an email with the month/day/times of your meeting/s and if they are recurring or not.

Details:

- Fran put together a cheat-sheet for moderators which Katy will pass on to anyone scheduling a meeting. It covers additional details in the rare cases where the meeting moderator needs to have more control (i.e. break out rooms, muting all participants).

Thank you to everyone for helping us maintain and increase our ability to keep our community connected.

**July's Share the Plate is for Los Medicos Voladores
aka *The Flying Doctors***



Since 1997, teams of volunteer physicians, dentists, pilots, and general volunteers have flown into the Thermal airport to spend a full day providing free, high quality medical, dental, and optometry clinics to Eastern Coachella Valley's underserved, uninsured, and working poor. With a population of 72,882, they have a staggering physician-to-population ratio of 1 physician per 8,407 residents! The President of *The Flying Doctors*, Luz Moreno, states these are our "brothers, sisters and children" who work mainly in the migrant farm communities.

On Sunday, July 19, please open your hearts and wallets and give generously. Your offering will be used to fund their next free clinic once they are able to safely reopen. While Share the Plate is normally held third Sundays October through June, at last month's UUCOD Board meeting, Social Justice Committee was granted permission to hold Share the Plate collections this year in July, August, & September as well.

In May 2020, our Congregation voted on our Share the Plate slate of organizations for the 2020-21 church year. If you would like be part of our Share the Plate Steering Committee, contact Denise Janssen Eager.

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 July 21, 2020.

At the meeting of the UUCOD Board of Directors on June 16, 2020 the following matters were discussed and/or decided:

Attitude of Gratitude Cards were sent to Sandy Sladen and Margaret Manson for joining the Sunday Service production team, Leslie Gebhart for providing beautiful flowers for Sunday Worship service, Rob DuWors for leading the copyright team, Shirley LeMaster for sharing our history for the new Board Orientation and Margaret Beaman for her service on the Committee on Ministry. Welcome Cards will also go to five new members.

Heard a report from the 2nd Vice President regarding the Stewardship Committee beginning a new virtual opportunity for community building. "Sunday Together" is planned to continue at the same time we would enjoy our coffee, cookies, and conversation following Worship (remember when we met in the building).

2nd VP also reported that the Membership Committee has a summer directory that will be emailed out soon. In addition, they brought in 5 new members (3 from the March UUCOD New Member Orientation class, 2 from other UU congregations).

Approved a motion to award the solar contract to a new contractor and to apply unrestricted funds from the Spirit Level Foundation grant to the solar project.

Approved a motion to accept Social Justice Committee's proposed Share-the-Plate nominations for July through September.

Approved a motion to appoint Barbara Storms to replace the retiring Committee on Ministry member.

Reflected on this past year, thanking our retiring 3 Board members who are all heading to new leadership roles within the church, further strengthening our church.

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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