

# August 2020



## UUCOD Monthly Newsletter

### MESSAGE FROM UUA VICE PRESIDENT

I'm writing to you in the afterglow of an incredible, imaginative, powerful, and all-virtual General Assembly. With the third-largest attendance ever to the UUA's annual gathering (more than 4900 people!) we chatted, workshopped, listened, learned, worshipped, sang, gave, phoned, and committed to the calling of our faith to work for justice and liberation. If you registered for GA, all the content remains available online through the Participant Portal. If you missed it, you can still watch highlights like Sunday Morning Worship and more.

It hasn't been easy making the shift from the usual in-person GA to one that is entirely online. To make it work, we asked more of our staff and volunteers than is sustainable in the long run. I know many of you can relate. UU congregations have wrestled with the same kind of shifts. Months into this pandemic, so many of us are exhausted as we strive to manage changing work and family realities without a clear end in sight. So my friends, it is vital that we also take time to rest, because the road ahead is long.

I'm thankful there is no "going back to normal." Instead, we go forward with the slow, hard, beautiful, daily work of transformation.

Take time to rest—it's advice that I myself need to hear! President Susan Frederick-Gray is taking the week off, and I'll be following suit later this month. In fact, the UUA will be closing its virtual offices the last week in July to ensure all our staff are able to take time to rest and reenergize as much as we can. We want to be ready for what comes next.

Going into the fall, I'm excited and humbled by work called for in the final report of the UUA Commission on Institutional Change. The Commission's report and presentation was a highlight of this year's virtual GA, a culmination of their three-year process. The published report, Widening the Circle of Concern, is now available and lays out ten areas of recommendations to become a truly anti-oppressive faith community. It is essential reading for every Unitarian Universalist, with recommendations for the UUA, UU organizations and seminaries, and all our congregations. A free copy has been mailed to all congregations; hardcopy editions can be purchased from InSpirit, the UUA bookstore, and you can read the report online. And watch for opportunities from the UUA to deepen, connect, and share these transformative aspirations for our faith.

This moment has demanded something new of us. It has opened up horizons in our communities to make them accessible to a much wider set of people. It has pushed us to grapple with fault lines and shortcomings that have long been present but cannot be ignored. A culture of overwork prevents us from being present to what is most essential right now and devalues our labor. In that sense, I'm thankful there is no "going back to normal." Instead, we go forward with the slow, hard, beautiful, daily work of transformation.

We must help each other take the time we need for ourselves and our families so that we can continue on the journey. I hope you all find restoration and renewal for your spirits in the coming weeks.

Warmly,

Carey McDonald  
UUA Executive Vice President

## SERVICES

**August 2, 2020**

***Knit Together in Community***

**Worship Leader: Rev. Ian Riddell**

**Worship Associate: Joni Paddock**

What can the practices knitting and crafting teach us about building just, loving relationships and communities?

**August 9, 2020**

***Widening the Circle of Concern, Part Three***

**Worship Leader: Rev. Don Stouder**

**Worship Associate: Bryna Blum**

In the final sermon of this series, Rev. Don will finish reviewing the UUA's Widening the Circle report, and help put its ideas into perspective for our UUCOD family. He will also discuss how these important ideas intersect right here in our own Coachella Valley in terms of things like climate justice and economic inequality.

**August 16, 2020**

***"How Are Our Veterans?"***

**Worship Leader: Hon. Mark E. Johnson**

**Worship Associate: Bob Rancourt**

In these times of movements and protests in the country, let's remember the individuals who serve and have served to secure our freedoms and rights to participate. Judge Mark E. Johnson, himself a veteran, will bring us up to speed on the state of veterans in the county and highlight his eight years' experience presiding over Riverside County Veterans' Court. Additionally, we will share the plate with our local chapter of Veterans for Peace.

**August 23, 2020**

***Like Bread, Not Stone: Love, Kindness, and Justice***

**Worship Leader: Rev. Ian Riddell**

**Worship Associate: Joni Paddock**

Even though we are separated from each other, the community we build daily sustains us and brings us possibility. What can we learn about crafting that community from Ursula Le Guin, M. Scott Peck, and knitting socks?

**August 30, 2020**

***Spirituality and Climate Justice***

**Worship Leader: Rev. Don Stouder**

**Worship Associate: Bob Rancourt**

In this sermon, Rev. Don will present climate change data from the Climate Reality Project. He will show us the important ways that our lived spirituality as UUs are directly related to the climate justice issues here in the Coachella Valley.

COLLECTIONS BASKET

## CALENDAR

Friday, July 31

Saturday, August 15

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

**Saturday, August 1**  
5:00 pm-Social BUterflies-**ZOOM Meeting**

**Sunday, August 2**  
10:00 am-Worship Service-**Live Streaming**  
11:00 am-Sunday Together-**Zoom Meeting**

**Tuesday, August 4**  
1:00 pm-Stewardship Committee

**Thursday, August 6**  
12:00 pm-Loving Kindness Meditation-  
**ZOOM Meeting**  
5:00 pm-WNO-**ZOOM Meeting**

**Friday, August 7**  
8:00 am-Men's Breakfast-**ZOOM Meeting**  
11:00 am-Coffee and Conversation-  
**ZOOM Meeting**

**Saturday, August 8**  
5:00 pm-Social BUterflies-**ZOOM Meeting**

**Sunday, August 9**  
10:00 am-Worship Service-**Live Streaming**  
11:00 am-Sunday Together-**Zoom Meeting**

**Tuesday, August 11**  
5:30 pm-Membership Committee

**Thursday, August 13**  
12:00 pm-Loving Kindness Meditation-  
**ZOOM Meeting**  
6:30 pm-Social Justice Committee-**ZOOM Meeting**

**Friday, August 14**  
11:00 am-Coffee and Conversation-  
**ZOOM Meeting**

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

**Sunday, August 16**  
10:00 am-Worship Service-**Live Streaming**  
11:00 am-Sunday Together-**Zoom Meeting**

**Thursday, August 20**  
12:00 pm-Loving Kindness Meditation-  
**ZOOM Meeting**

**Friday, August 21**  
11:00 am-Coffee and Conversation-  
**ZOOM Meeting**

**Saturday, August 22**  
5:00 pm-Social BUterflies-**ZOOM Meeting**

**Sunday, August 23**  
10:00 am-Worship Service-**Live Streaming**  
11:00 am-Sunday Together-**Zoom Meeting**

**Tuesday, August 25**  
4:30 pm-Worship Committee-**Zoom Meeting**

**Thursday, August 27**  
12:00 pm-Loving Kindness Meditation-  
**ZOOM Meeting**

**Friday, August 28**  
11:00 am-Coffee and Conversation-  
**ZOOM Meeting**

**Saturday, August 29**  
5:00 pm-Social BUterflies-**ZOOM Meeting**

**Sunday, August 30**  
10:00 am-Worship Service-**Live Streaming**  
11:00 am-Sunday Together-**Zoom Meeting**

## STAYING CONNECTED

### Staying Connected

**Women's Night Out:** Thursday Aug. 6 @ 5:30 pm

**UUCOD Men's Breakfast:** Friday Aug. 7 @ 8:00 am

**Sunday Together:** Sunday @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

**Loving Kindness Meditation:** Thursday @ 12:00 - 12:30 pm

**Coffee & Conversation:** Friday @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

**Social BUterflies Happy Hour:** Saturday @ 5:00 - 6:00 pm

## To Dial in by Phone

Sunday Together

Coffee & Conversation:

Loving Kindness Meditation:

Social BUUterflies Happy Hour:

Women's Night Out:

UUCOD Men's Breakfast:

## UU JUSTICE MINISTRY OF CALIFORNIA

At last month's virtual General Assembly, delegates voted in overwhelming support of two liberation-centered Actions of Immediate Witness - [Address 400 Years of White Supremacist Colonialism & Amen to Uprising: A Commitment and Call to Action](#). These AIWs call upon all of us as Unitarian Universalists and co-creators of justice to deepen our commitment to dismantling structures of white supremacy that have violently oppressed people of color - and particularly Black and Indigenous people - since the first colonists invaded the land inhabited by the Wampanoag people 400 years ago.

These Actions of Immediate Witness must not be allowed to fade from our memory or our faith. Rather, we must charge ourselves to return to them over and over again as we strive to heal and rebuild a world with love at its center.

**How are we as a faith that honors the interdependent web of all existence "work[ing] to stop and reverse ecological harm in genuine collaboration with and taking leadership from communities most consistently and harshly impacted by extractive exploitation of land, water, air, and all beings?"**

**How are we as a faith that promotes justice, equity and compassion in human relations "joining in widespread calls for immediate defunding of police departments, ending immigration detention, and abolishing ICE?"**

**How are we as a faith that affirms the inherent worth and dignity of every person explicitly naming & dismantling the ways in which we have been complicit in the denial of the worth and dignity of black and brown lives?**

These are no small questions or charges to engage, particularly in the midst of a global pandemic. But our faith is big enough to stay in the conversation and move us towards the liberation these AIWs imagine. Our faith's promise is abundant enough to carry us through the breaking, breaking open, releasing, destroying, imagining, and building anew that collective liberation demands.

In the coming months, UJMCAs will be offering/amplifying several opportunities to remain engaged with the charge of our faith. We will be offering [monthly programming specifically for UU Young Adults](#), ongoing UU the Vote organizing & support, [a free & virtual "Turning the Tides" Justice Leadership Summit](#), and Fall workshops focused on our commitment to "authentically multicultural, multi-racial, [and] anti-oppressive" community. I hope you will join us for these and many more opportunities to understand and live out the liberatory promise of our faith.

In faith, justice, and immediate witness,  
Rev. Ranwa Hammamy, UJMCAs Executive Director

## 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 September 15, 2020.

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

- Attitude of Gratitude Cards were sent to Bill Smith for his work on the Finance Committee and to Roger Beaman as he steps down as Chair of the Finance Committee.
- Heard a Stewardship Committee recommendation from the 2nd Vice President to establish a task force who will review our "internal" communication process.
- Agreed that 3 Board members will meet and establish guidelines to be used by a task force in examining our communication process.
- Heard a report from Facilities that UUCOD's application for solar approval with IID is in process.
- Approved a motion to accept the position description for an Assistant Minister.
- Agreed to NOT have a formal Board Meeting during the month of August.
- We agreed to meet during August as well as on a September 19th retreat to vision and plan for UUCOD's next steps.

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**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.

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[Visit our website](#)

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