

December 2020



UUCOD Monthly Newsletter

MESSAGE FROM REV. BARBARA



Tim Nguyen-Photographer

DECEMBER 2020
ALL CONGREGATION "WISHING ON STARS"

**"When you wish upon a star, makes no difference
who you are."**

Star Sailors!

We all are star sailors in our own way. Well, not literally. The term "astronaut" means "star sailor." Isn't that beautiful! You and I are travelling around one star in a universe beyond measure! Stars beyond number! That's A Very Big Miracle! Can you sit with that big idea for just another moment?

Breathe.

Sit a moment longer.

You are a Star Sailor!

As the earth tilts on its axis our days grow shorter, until Solstice, when the "sun stands still," and then begins to return. These brief dusky days and long dark nights are rich with invitation. They offer us a time of interior quality, a time for contemplation and reflection, for integrating all that is our life up until now.

Christians call this time Advent. Whatever name you give it or none, why not let it become a time, especially during this time of Covid, to allow yourself to be available for the miracles and life savoring moments still contained in our everyday. Allow in your daytime or nighttime some time for reflection and contemplation.

Since we are all Star Sailors, Rev Ian and I and the worship team are inviting you into a specific practice of reflection this season. We are inviting you to, "Wish Upon A Star."

Don't binge watch news and hear usually inaccurate predictions of what the future holds. The future is always more surprising than we can imagine! I often think as I read editorials and opinions that if pundits were paid by the accuracy for their predictions, they'd be a pretty poor bunch. But since we tend to want to know, especially in uncertain times, what

the future holds for us and we cannot really ever know for certain, we navigate uncertainly with more or less grace toward ourselves, families, and friends. Let us be as Star Sailors and see our true wishes this season.

We have power and we love. Last year, we were together, coloring and writing, making those wishing stars, sharing those truth prayers together and placing them on the tree. It was a most holy time! After that Glenn fashioned the beautiful collage of all our deep wishes. This year we will do it again, only differently. We can navigate this time, we can be together virtually in spirit, and continue to help one another find our way. We are star sailors. Let us be guided by our stars!

You are invited to create your star, color it, draw pictures, and/or write your deep wish/prayer upon it.

Please finish it by December 15. We will share them virtually. Details to follow (once we figure it out!)

Let yourself play in this time of expectation and preparation and share your dreams as you wish upon your star. We will keep dreaming up ways to co-create that quality of connection and invite each other to be a part of it all, not apart from it. For me, when I truly open myself up to my deep wishes, it is like a prayer.

Bless everyone. No exception. Include Yourself.
Rev B.

SERVICES

November 29, 2020

A Church of Many Sensibilities: A Sunday with UUs in Asia and the Pacific

Worship Leader: Rev. Tet Gallardo

Worship Associate: Sarah Gonzales

We say that the UU Church of the Philippines (UUCP) was founded in 1955. And when our generation tells this story we usually say because of the American Unitarians. That is accurate if we mean the word Unitarian, rooted in what the West calls their Enlightenment and their Renaissance, are in fact values ancient and organic to the East. It is false if we mean that Unitarian values were introduced to the Philippines by the West. It is also true if we mean that Filipinos needed a word for the historical persistence of indigenous humanitarian values in their culture and Unitarian was adopted as a counter-oppression to fundamentalism in the country.

December 6, 2020

How Do We Covenant for Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging

Worship Leader: Lauren Nile and the BIOPOC Group

Worship Associate: Sarah Gonzales

A service of personal stories of UU's of Color about widening the circle of our faith.

December 13, 2020

Modest Gifts And Signs of Love

Worship Leader: Rev Barbara

Worship Associate: Joni Paddock, & the UUCOD Choir

Tis the season of seeking hope in the midst of troubles, and reassurance that we still have gifts to give and receive. This Sunday we will look at the miracle of Hanukah, and ask the perennial question, "What shall we do with our gifts?"

PLEASE COME TO THE CONGREGATIONAL BUSINESS MEETING ON ZOOM AFTER THE SERVICE.

December 20, 2020

A Sermon for the Solstice: "Following Our Star Home"

Worship Leader: Rev. Barbara Fast

Worship Associate: Bob Rancourt and Betty Bender

Solstice means 'sun stands still'. It is the year's longest night. Human beings have always looked up and watched the night sky stars move. We seek to navigate our fears and hopes with some kindness and courage.

December 24, 2020 at 5:00 PM

Christmas Eve Candlelight Zoom Service

Worship Leaders: Rev. Barbara Fast, Rev. Ian Riddell, Bryna Blum, Choir, Kurt Jordan and Soloists!

Join us for our traditional Christmas Eve Service. We will have candles and stars and we will celebrate the love that we share for each other, our neighbors, ourselves and this whole holy beautiful messy broken miracle of a world.

December 27, 2020

Gentle Strength: Kindness and Healing

Worship Leaders: Rev. Ian W. Riddell

Worship Associate: TBD

The band know as The Alternate Fields tell us that "We are how we treat each other, nothing more." As we face a new year and new opportunities to build a world of justice and equity, as we strive to heal our hearts and our relationships in a time of struggle, how do we remain steadfastly faithful to each other? Join us at the end of the year as we explore kindness as a healing way of being.

COLLECTIONS BASKET

"INSPIRATIONAL" QUOTE OF THE WEEK

The biggest adventure you can take is to live the life of your dreams.

-Oprah Winfrey

CALENDAR

Friday, November 27

11:00 am-Coffee and Conversation-
ZOOM Meeting

Saturday, November 28

5:00 pm-Social BUUterflies Happy
Hour-**ZOOM Meeting**

Sunday, November 29

9:45 am-Worship Service-**Special ZOOM Service**
11:00 am-Sunday Together-**Zoom Meeting**

Monday, November 30

2:00 pm-Super Seniors-**Zoom Meeting**
5:00 pm-Art Talk-**Zoom Meeting**

Tuesday, December 1

10:30 am-Poetry Class-**ZOOM Meeting**
2:00 pm-Stewardship Committee-**ZOOM Meeting**

Sunday, December 13

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

11:00 am-All Congregational Business
Meeting-**Zoom Meeting**
12:00 pm-Finance Committee-**Zoom Meeting**

Tuesday, December 15

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

Wednesday, December 16

5:30 pm-BIOPOC-**ZOOM Meeting**

Thursday, December 17

12:00 pm-Loving Kindness Meditation-
ZOOM Meeting

Friday, December 18

11:00 am-Coffee and Conversation-

Meeting

Wednesday, December 2
6:30 pm-Facilities-**ZOOM Meeting**

Thursday, December 3
12:00 pm-Loving Kindness Meditation-
ZOOM Meeting

Friday, December 4
8:00 am-Men's Breakfast-**ZOOM Meeting**
11:00 am-Coffee and Conversation-
ZOOM Meeting

Saturday, December 5
5:00 pm-Social BUUterflies Happy
Hour-**ZOOM Meeting**

Sunday, December 6
10:00 am-Worship Service-**Live
Streaming**
11:00 am-Sunday Together-**Zoom
Meeting**

Tuesday, December 8
10:30 am-Poetry Class-**ZOOM Meeting**
6:00 pm-Membership Committee-**ZOOM
Meeting**

Thursday, December 10
12:00 pm-Loving Kindness Meditation-
ZOOM Meeting
6:30 pm-Social Justice Committee-**ZOOM
Meeting**

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

Saturday, December 12
5:00 pm-Social BUUterflies Happy
Hour-**ZOOM Meeting**

ZOOM Meeting

Saturday, December 19
5:00 pm-Social BUUterflies Happy
Hour-**ZOOM Meeting**

Sunday, December 20
10:00 am-Worship Service-**Live
Streaming**
11:00 am-Sunday Together-**Zoom
Meeting**

Tuesday, December 22
4:30 pm-Worship-**ZOOM Meeting**

Thursday, December 24
Christmas Eve
12:00 pm-Loving Kindness Meditation-
ZOOM Meeting
5:00pm Christmas Eve Service

Friday, December 25
Christmas Day
11:00 am-Coffee and Conversation-
ZOOM Meeting

Saturday, December 26
5:00 pm-Social BUUterflies Happy
Hour-**ZOOM Meeting**

Sunday, December 27
10:00 am-Worship Service-**Live
Streaming**
11:00 am-Sunday Together-**Zoom
Meeting**

Monday, December 28
2:00 pm-Super Seniors-**Zoom Meeting**

Friday, January 1
New Years
11:00 am-Coffee and Conversation-
ZOOM Meeting

STAYING CONNECTED

Staying Connected

UUCOD Men's Breakfast: Friday Dec. 4 @ 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 BUUterflies Happy Hour: Saturday @ 5:00 - 6:00 pm

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Plate Collections for Sunday, November 29: \$1,193

\$597 will be shared with SafeHouse of the Desert, our November Share the Plate recipient

Live Streaming forever!

At the November 8 AV Informational Meeting, the Congregation expressed very strong support for the proposal to continue online streaming after we resume live services, and to add large TV screens in the Sanctuary. With the anticipated very, very slow transition back to in-house services this lets us all stay connected, with the long run benefit of providing access to our seasonal, infirm, or traveling members. As well, it provides a mechanism for reaching out to a broader and more diverse community, such as east valley, and enables us to gently enhance our worship services with large TV screens in the Sanctuary.

At the November 17 Board Meeting, the Board agreed to call a Special Business Meeting on December 13 to refer the proposal to a Congregational Vote. All are welcome and, as always, only members can vote.

Please plan to join in this special meeting. For any questions, contact Rod Belshee.

News from the Care Team:

Friends,

Holidays can be difficult. This year especially so. PLEASE reach out if you're not well, need a meal or just want someone on the other end of the phone to listen with a caring heart.

Don't be shy. We are YOUR Care Team and are here for you.

Bryna Blum

Current and Accurate UUCOD Email Address

The current email to reach UUCOD's administrator is: admin@uucod.org.

Send your requests to this email for information, to be added to the newsletter email list, and to request Zoom links to the Sunday services.

This is the only email that is current and accurate.

Thank you.

Art Talk

Calling all UUCOD creative types! Join us for an informal Zoom conversation of ArtTalk on Monday, November 30, 5:00 pm PT. Works in progress welcome. We'll talk about what we are doing artwise, however we define that. Let's share, inspire, and support.

Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can.

Screen sharing will be available. Have a few jpgs in your photo library. If you're uncertain how screen sharing works, especially for iPads, join the meeting early and we'll walk you through it. Having something to show is not a requirement.

PLEASE HELP IF YOU CAN

Many of our East Valley neighbors are suffering so much during this time of job losses and food insecurity resulting from the pandemic. If you are able, please consider donating \$50 and the holiday elves will do the shopping for you (a fixed list of items totaling \$46.33 plus tax) to provide a grocery box of non-perishable food items to the Migrant Education Center in Thermal for distribution to our farmworker neighbors. The deadline to commit for a donation is Dec 2 to give the elves enough time to shop before the food will be delivered on Sat, Dec 5. Please email Joni Paddock to make your commitment. An email and a check for \$50 will make a world of difference in the lives of so many people. Thank you and Namaste.

**BLACK, INDIGENOUS AND OTHER PEOPLE OF
COLOR (Special Interest Group)**

BIOPOC --

Do you identify as Black, Indigenous or Other People of Color? In this time when the whole nation and our denomination is exploring ways to work toward racial justice, we have found that Black, Indigenous and Other People of Color may need a safe space to hang out, have time for self-care and honest loving conversation. The group meets monthly for spiritual practices that refill, renew, and support wholeness from our unique perspective as People of Color.

Meets: 3rd Wednesday of the month at 5:30pm via Zoom
Contact: Sarah Gonzales

STEWARDSHIP

In the month of November, we saw two significant ways that stewardship is manifested within our UUCOD community. First, we held the first ever live auction on zoom. We had fun and we raised needed funds. We did that because of our generous spirit. We had 76 items for bid between the live and silent auction, 81 bidders participated, 25+ volunteers worked to make this a success and we raised \$20,032, all while staying safe during covid-19. This was truly an example of stewardship in action.

Our second example of stewardship was seen at last Sunday's Service. At that service we were introduced to the care team and their work. We saw that they provide support to members who are in need, by providing meals, transportation, cards, phone calls and visits when safe. The care team tries to be aware of anyone who is in need in our community and help them to get the services they need. If you would like to be part of this team, please call either Rev. Ian Riddell or Bryna Blum. You can find their numbers in the church directory.

When we are good stewards we can thrive in the midst of adversity. How can you be a good steward of UUCOD?

Linda Savard, 2nd Vice President and Chair of the Stewardship Committee

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Have YOU Donated to the Toy Drive yet?

Your donation will be used to purchase toys for the children within CVUSD's Migrant Education Program so they can have a merrier Christmas. Click the link below to do it now and you can check one more item off of your Holiday To-Do List! Questions, email Joni Paddock.

TOY DRIVE DONATION

Hey Holiday Elves! ☐☐ ☐☐

We need to know ASAP how many boxes of food you elves are donating. You've still got time to participate. We won't be collecting the box until December 4th.

Help feed the families of students within CVUSD's Migrant Education Program by collecting these items. Not a shopper? Pay \$50 for the cost of all the items & our elves will do it for you! Contact Joni Paddock to sign up now.

**Thanks & Giving Food Donation Calendar
for CVUSD's Migrant Education Program's Christmas Party**

Each day in November until Thanksgiving, please add the unexpired item listed to a box.

On **December 4**, bring the **completely filled box to UUCOD between 3 - 6 pm.**
We'll Deliver it to CVUSD's Migrant Education Program before their Christmas Party.
Email Joni Paddock for Details & to Sign Up



- November 1 - Box of Cereal
- November 2 - Peanut Butter
- November 3 - Cooking Oils (corn, canola, vegetable)
- November 4 - Flour (corn or regular flour)
- November 5 - Macaroni & Cheese
- November 6 - Canned Fruit
- November 7 - Canned Tomato Sauce/Paste
- November 8 - Canned Tuna
- November 9 - Dessert Mix (ex: brownie mixes & already made pudding cups,)
- November 10 - Jar of Applesauce
- November 11 - Canned Sweet Potatoes
- November 12 - Dried Herbs/Spices (cinnamon, oregano, bay leaves, salt, sugar)
- November 13 - Bag of Beans (beans, lentils)
- November 14 - Box of Crackers
- November 15 - Package of Rice
- November 16 - Package of Oatmeal
- November 17 - Package Pasta
- November 18 - Spaghetti Sauce
- November 19 - Chicken Noodle Soup
- November 20 - Canned/Powdered Milk (evaporated, condensed & powdered)
- November 21 - Can Corn
- November 22 - Can Mixed Vegetables
- November 23 - Can Carrots
- November 24 - Can Green Beans
- November 25 - Canned Chiles (jalapenos in vinegar sauce)

Well in the Desert is a Lifeline During this Pandemic

Well in the Desert, our December 20th Share the Plate recipient, is a small grassroots organization that has been operating for 25 years. In a normal year they serve more than 1000 people who are affected by poverty throughout the western end of the Coachella Valley. However, with this pandemic, they see more than 100 clients walk through their doors every day!

With Project Room Key - California's short-term response to reducing COVID-19 among the homeless population - not being renewed, all those who've been housed in hotels within the Coachella Valley will be evicted by December 31st. That combined with there being no overnight shelters in Palm Springs, Desert Hot Springs, & Cathedral City means that everyone will once again be homeless sleeping in the desert when our nights are in the 40s!

So Well's mission to provide these items becomes even more important:

- Nutritious lunches 7 days a week
- Emergency food assistance
- Weekly supplemental food distribution
- Assistance with food stamps, emergency medical financial assistance, & IDs
- Showers & personal care products
- Clean warm clothes & blankets
- An address so clients can receive assistance checks & personal mail
- Case management for medical, mental health, & dental services
- Van rides to appointments

- Advocacy
- And much, much more!

Most of all, the Well provides a place where people can be treated with dignity and respect, which when you think about it, is our first principle. Please give generously this holiday season.

**Want to Get Involved with Georgia's Senate Run Off Election?
Send Postcards to Unlikely GA Voters & Give Them a Personal
Nudge So That They Vote!**

Research has shown that sending a handwritten postcard is an effective tool to encourage reluctant voters to make their voices heard for who they want to control the Senate for the next 2 years!

UU the VOTE has joined forces with *Election Defenders & Action Network* to bring you this campaign. This is different from our last postcard campaign. You will commit to writing 50 postcards. You will also receive an email with the script of what to write & addresses of Georgia voters who are unlikely to cast a ballot.

[Click Here to Register with Action Network](#)

When you are done registering, please email Gloria Kapp at gkapp@dc.rr.com that you have joined the campaign. You can also let her know if you have questions or are unable to buy stamps.

We will follow up with everyone about our next Postcard Writing Party to be held sometime in December.

This is UUCOD the Vote's first action since Election Day. But it won't be our last! We also plan to phone bank Georgia voters and will send information when we have worked out the details.

BOARD NOTES

These notes do not constitute official minutes of the November 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 December 15, 2020.

At the meeting of the UUCOD Board of Directors on November 17, 2020 the following matters were discussed and/or decided:

Attitude of Gratitude cards were sent to John Hammond and Randy Steele.

Received a report from 1st VP on Silent and Live Auction Results. Congratulated Carol Lavoie for her Leadership.

Discussed status of pledge drive planning.

Moved to accept two art donations from Gene Kain including a third statue for our sacred grounds and a framed drawing representing UU's 7th principle for our foyer.

Moved to approve a Phased Reopening plan and COVID Protocols. There are no plans at this time to open the building.

Discussed benefits and concerns regarding Worship services on Zoom.

Moved to approve a proposal for Audio-Visual upgrades be referred for Congregational approval at a Special Board Meeting on Sunday, December 13, 2020. The proposal is to allow for large TV screens in the Sanctuary and live streaming of Worship services.

SAVE THE DATE

Save December 13 for an Important Congregational Meeting

The Board has called a Congregational Special Business meeting on December 13 after the Sunday Service. The Congregation will be asked to vote on the proposal to extend online streaming after we return to live services and to add large TV screens in the sanctuary. We held an informational session after Sunday Services on November 8 and are now asking for approval in accordance with our By-Laws. Look for additional information in your email!

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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