

December 18th, 2020



## UUCOD Weekly Reminder

### SERVICES

[Click Here to Join Our Worship Services at 10:00 AM](#)

**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:** Joni Paddock

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

One kind word can warm three winter months.  
Japanese Proverb

## CALENDAR

**Sunday Worship:** Sunday @ 10:00 am  
**Chalice Circle:** Sunday @ 2:00 pm  
**Chalice Circle:** Monday @ 3:00 pm  
**Worship Committee:** Tuesday @ 4:30 pm

### Staying Connected

**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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Plate Collections for Sunday, December 13, 2020: \$214.00**

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### COME ONE, COME ALL

Are you looking for new ways to engage with other people here at UUCOD? Do you have time on your hands and want something to do? Our committees are always looking for new people, new energy and new ideas. Some of our committees are looking for full time members and others are looking for someone to help with a special project. Whatever gifts you have and any amount of time you have to give is much appreciated. Take a look at this list and see if you can imagine yourself as part of one of these groups. Then reach out to the chair/lead of the group.

#### Committee

Facilities  
Finance  
Membership  
Pastoral Care

Social Justice  
Worship

Video Production Team  
Life Spiritual Growth  
Stewardship  
Music Team  
Sacred Grounds

#### Chair/Lead

Rod Belshee  
Sarah Gonzales  
Randy Steele  
Rev. Ian Riddell/  
Bryna Blum  
Denise Janssen Eager  
Joni Paddock  
Vikki Porter  
Fran Hoag  
Linda Savard  
Jonathan Fast  
Rod Belshee

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**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

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**Scrip Gift Cards**

Are you at a loss as to how to safely do your holiday shopping? Do you miss our SCRIP fundraisers for UUCOD?

There is now an app you can use to order Scrip Gift Cards (mailed directly to your home), or ECards that you can put in your virtual wallet for shopping, or to email as a gift, to your contractor, or your neighbor who does your grocery shopping for you.

What I like about the App & the wallet feature is that you don't need to carry a zillion giftcards with you. You always carry your phone, right? Or if you are shopping at a store & haven'tt purchased a gift card yet, you can quickly go to the app & buy one while you are waiting to check out.

The App is called Raise Right & its so easy to use & UUCOD gets a percentage of each card purchase. The church code is **65BF518511248**

There is normally a shipping fee on the actual gift cards, but thru Dec 4, there is no cost to you for the cards to be mailed to your home. (there is a \$0.15 fee to have the funds for your card purchase transferred from your checking account ).

If you want to finish your shopping the easy way & help UUCOD, download the Rase Right App now. If you need help, call or email me- I'm in the directory.

Happy Shopping!

Sheryl Eaton  
UUCOD Scrip Fund Raising Program

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**Virtual UUCOD New Years Eve Party**

Can't go out this year to celebrate the end of 2020? Well, dress up in your evening gown or tux (or wear your zoom sweats or pjs) & join us for a virtual UUCOD New Years Eve Party.

The party starts @ 7:30 pm on, December 31. Have a drink , or sparking water, if you want to get in the mood. We'll play a fun game & at 9:00 pm, we'll toast the New Year (it has to be better than 2020, right?) We can then be in bed by 9:30 pm & those of you who wore your pjs, will have a head start.

Game playing is NOT mandatory - you can sit back & enjoy seeing your UUCOD friends & laugh or just watch if you want, or sign on at 8:58 pm in time to watch the virtual ball drop & wish everyone a ☐ Happy New Year!

This will be (we certainly hope) a once in a life opportunity to celebrate 2020-style. Come join us.

Please RSVP to MuffinGolf@gmail.com so we can try to scale our game to the numbers attending.

Join Virtual New Years Eve Party

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

### Unitarian Universalist Association President

### Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray

#### In This Holiday Season May We Simply Be

As we embark on this season of holidays and holy days, I hold you and our faith community in deep care. This season will be different than any we can remember. We cannot gather in our sanctuaries and sacred spaces, bedecked with greenery and poinsettias. We cannot gather close together in candlelight and song. Our dearly held traditions that bring so much joy to this season of magic and beautiful darkness will be pared down, virtual, even canceled altogether.

It's heartbreaking to think of going through this season without the company of extended family and friends. And for so many of us who have lost loved ones, our grief will be heavier during the holidays—especially in a year such as this.

It reminds me that it is more important than ever that we let the people in our lives know how much we care about them. We need each other now more than ever. I am grateful for the ways technology allows family and community and colleagues to gather and support each other across great distances. In this spirit, I offer [this holiday video message](#) to you and your congregation. I invite you to use it in an upcoming worship service.

Now is the time to lean in more to relationships of care and compassion, to lean in more to our interdependence. Gathering virtually, calling our friends, checking in on each other—it matters. One of the things keeping me rooted these days is remembering to take it one day at a time. It is so easy to focus on missing what cannot be or the difficult road still ahead in the pandemic. In staying attentive to the present, I am able to attend to my grief, while also being open to the affirmation of life that is still very much present.

My hope for each and every one of us, in the midst of a season so often marked by hectic to-do lists and the recreation of some “perfect holiday,” is that we give ourselves permission to rest, to simply be, rather than always doing. To tend to the grief and the joy that is a part of our lives. To make room in our days for our spiritual care and renewal.

Just as the earth takes time to rest in the winter, let us remember the gift of darkness that is part of this season—a reflective moment in the cycle of life. In the words of Buddhist teacher Stephanie Nobel:

“Dark is the rich fertile earth  
that cradles the seed, nourishing growth.  
Dark is the soft night that cradles us to rest.  
Only in darkness  
can stars shine across the vastness of space...  
There is mystery woven in the dark quiet hours.  
There is magic in the darkness...  
We are born of this magic.”

I send you all my love and many, many blessings during this holiday season.

Yours,

Susan

Here is the full reading “[In Celebration of Winter Solstice](#)” by Stephanie Nobel.

# SOCIAL JUSTICE

## 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.

## NEWS FROM CAMP DE BENNEVILLE PINES

### News from Camp de Benneville Pines

It has been an unprecedented year for camp. For those of you who have been to Camp de Benneville Pines, you understand what a lovely, lively camp it is. Some of us have had wonderful experiences at the camp located high in the San Bernardino Mountains.

2020 has been a difficult year for the camp. First the Coronavirus Pandemic followed by the El Dorado Fire that came incredibly close to the camp has created a crisis for the camp. If you are a camp lover, look through their website. Maybe there's a way you could be of assistance. Maybe you will become a future camper.

This information is from their website: [Home - \(uucamp.org\)](http://uucamp.org)

**Camp de Benneville Pines is located in the San Bernardino National Forest**, about 90 miles east of Los Angeles at an elevation of 6,800 feet. The mountain hosts a forest of towering pines, cedars, and oaks. Lending to the beauty and feeling of remoteness, the camp is surrounded by U.S. Forest Wilderness. Camp de Benneville Pines operates as an independent non-profit. It is supported by the 50 + member congregations of the Pacific Southwest District (PSWD) of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Due to this commitment, generations of Southwest UUUs have been nurtured by Camp. In turn, campers have built up a well-maintained and well-loved resource.

## Be Safe and Well!

**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 3:00 pm, Fridays.

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