

December 23, 2020



UUCOD Weekly Reminder

SERVICES

**Click here to join our Worship Services on Sunday
12/27/20**

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.

***This Christmas Eve, there are two ways to be at the Candlelight service. Join us on
ZOOM at 5:00 pm (ZOOM link opens at 4:30 pm)
or on Facebook at 7:00 pm.***

ZOOM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24th at 5:00 pm

(The link opens at 4:30 pm for Holiday Greetings)

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

Join us for our traditional Christmas Eve Service.

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. Bring your candles to share your lights!

“ZOOM link opens at 4:30 pm. Service starts at 5:00 pm.

ZOOM Streaming at 5:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Facebook Streaming
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
December 24th at 7:00 PM

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

Join us for our traditional Christmas Eve Service.

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. The service will be streaming on FACEBOOK at Unitarian Universalist Church of the Desert at 7:00 pm Christmas Eve.

**Facebook Streaming at 7:00pm Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service**

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

The growth of love is the essence within the soul.
Hawaiian Proverb

CALENDAR

Sunday Worship: Sunday @ 10:00 am

Super Senior Lunch Zoom: Monday @ 2:00 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 BUUterflies Happy Hour: Saturday @ 5:00 - 6:00 pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Plate Collections for Sunday, December 20, 2020: \$1,334

Well in the Desert, our Share the Plate recipient, will receive a check for \$667.

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	Chair/Lead	Phone Number
Facilities	Rod Belshee	971-404-9425
Finance	Sarah Gonzales	510-427-2043
Membership	Randy Steele	760-534-4199
Pastoral Care	Rev. Ian Riddell/ Bryna Blum	608-772-0957 760-485-9289
Social Justice	Denise Janssen Eager	760-567-4586
Worship	Joni Paddock	508-954-9108
Video Production Team	Vikki Porter	760-700-6076
Life Spiritual Growth	Fran Hoag	971-404-9405
Stewardship	Linda Savard	562-505-7665
Music Team	Jonathan Fast	203-685-0669
Sacred Grounds	Rod Belshee	971-404-9425

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

760 485 9289

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

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 sparkling 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.

December 31, 2020, 07:30--9:30pm

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 918 5594 6293

Passcode: 890041

[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.

**Be Safe and Well!
Happy Holidays!**

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 3:00 pm, Fridays.

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Desert
72425 Via Vail - Rancho Mirage CA 92270 - (760) 321-0694

