

February 2021



UUCOD Monthly Newsletter

MESSAGE FROM REV. BARBARA



Tim Nguyen-Photographer

*From Rev Barbara
February 2021*

This is the month of our Annual Pledge Drive. I know you to be generous people. I know you treasure this community. I have faith that we will come through these very difficult and uncertain times. I know UUCOD can count on your support!

As I looked over my Pledge Drive files I found these words from The Reverend Dr. John Wolf * All Souls UU, Tulsa (1960-95). They inspired me because of their message and their messenger. I can't do better, on either score, so I thought I'd share his words with you.

"There is only one reason for joining a Unitarian Universalist church and that is: to support it. You want to support it because it stands against superstition and fear. Because this church points to what is noblest and

best in human life. Because it is open to women and men of whatever race, creed, color, place of origin, or sexual orientation."

"You want to support a Unitarian Universalist church because it has a free pulpit. Because you can hear ideas expressed there which would cost any other minister his or her job. You want to support it because it is a place where children come without being saddled with guilt or terrified of some celestial Peeping Tom, where they can learn that religion is for joy, for comfort, for gratitude and love.

"You want to support it because it is a place where walls between people are torn down rather than built-up. Because it is a place for the religious displaced persons of our time, the refugees from mixed marriages, the unwanted free-thinkers and those who insist against orthodoxy that they must work out their own beliefs.

"You want to support a UU church because it is more concerned with human beings than with dogmas. Because it searches for the holy...Because it calls no one a sinner, yet knows how deep is the struggle in each person's breast and how great is the hunger for what is good.

"You want to support a UU church because it can laugh. Because it stands for something in a day when religion is still more concerned with platitudes than with prejudice and war. You want to support it not because it buys you some insurance policy towards your funeral service, but because it insults neither your intelligence nor your conscience, and because it calls you to worship what is truly worthy of your sacrifice. There is only one reason for joining a Unitarian Universalist church: to support it!" Rev Dr. John Wolf

* Rev. Dr. Wolf served the Tulsa UU Church from 1960-1995. He was a brave and outspoken advocate for civil rights, hosted Tulsa's first interfaith and interracial worship service in 1965 after the Selma Marches, followed by a solidarity march through the city's downtown. He helped lead the fight for integration in Tulsa's schools, was a co-founder of the Oklahoma branch of the American Civil Liberties Union, and served on the National Board of Planned Parenthood. Dr. Wolf died in 2017 at the age of 92.

SERVICES

February 7, 2021

"Nature as Healer"

Worship Leader: Sandy Sladen

Worship Associate: Bryna Blum

Come explore our 7th principle, the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. Let's experience how nature resides within us and how, as such, we are able to heal ourselves as nature is able to heal itself.

February 14, 2021

"What's Love Got to Do With It"

Worship Leader: Rev. Ian W. Riddell

Worship Associate: Bob Rancourt

Every week we light our chalice with the words "May love be the spirit of this church." More than an emotion we celebrate each year on this day, we call on love to guide the larger circles of our lives. Join us as we explore love as the grounding for community.

February 21, 2021

Wonder Woman

Worship Leader: Rev. Barbara Fast

Worship Associate: Sarah Gonzales

This sermon is a very incomplete reflection on Wonder Woman, the movie, women's power and moral agency and what we encounter when we exercise it. We will also welcome our newest members and generously share this month's Sunday Offertory with Planned Parenthood.

February 28, 2021

Sacred The Body

Worship Leader: Rev. Barbara Fast

Worship Associate: Derek Moore

I like to say, all theology is grounded in autobiography. This is a sermon of remembrance. I share it as a spiritual affirmation to remind and encourage us – at every age and ability- to honor our bodies, our selves, and our incarnational lifetimes.

COLLECTIONS BASKET

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Forget not that the earth delights to feel your bare feet and the winds long to play with your hair.

Khalil Gibran

The bluebird carries the sky on his back.

Henry David Thoreau

CALENDAR

Saturday, January 30

6:00 pm-Bingo Bash

5:00 pm-Social BUterflies Happy Hour-**Happy Hour is not meeting this week.**

Sunday, January 31

10:00 am-Worship Service-Live

Streaming

11:00 am-Sunday Together-Zoom

Meeting

11:30 am-New Member Orientation-Zoom Meeting

Monday, February 1

6:30 pm-Care Team-ZOOM Meeting

Tuesday, February 2

2:00 pm-Stewardship Committee-ZOOM Meeting

Wednesday, February 3

6:30 pm-Facilities-ZOOM Meeting

Thursday, February 4

12:00 pm-Loving Kindness Meditation-ZOOM Meeting

Friday, February 5

9:00 am-Men's Breakfast-ZOOM Meeting

11:00 am-Coffee and Conversation-ZOOM Meeting

Saturday, February 6

5:00 pm-Social BUterflies Happy Hour-ZOOM Meeting

Sunday, February 7

10:00 am-Worship Service-Live

Streaming

11:00 am-Sunday Together-Zoom

Meeting

Tuesday, February 9

6:30 pm-Membership Committee-ZOOM Meeting

Thursday, February 11

12:00 pm-Loving Kindness Meditation-ZOOM Meeting

6:30 pm-Social Justice Committee-ZOOM Meeting

Monday, February 15

3:00 pm-Chalice Circle-ZOOM Meeting

Tuesday, February 16

5:00 pm-Board of Directors-ZOOM

Meeting

7:00 pm-Chalice Circle-ZOOM Meeting

Wednesday, February 17

12:00 pm-Chalice Circle-ZOOM Meeting

5:30 pm-BIOPOC-ZOOM Meeting

Thursday, February 18

12:00 pm-Loving Kindness Meditation-

ZOOM Meeting

2:30 pm-Chalice Circle-ZOOM Meeting

Friday, February 19

11:00 am-Coffee and Conversation-

ZOOM Meeting

1:00 pm-Chalice Circle-ZOOM Meeting

Saturday, February 20

5:00 pm-Social BUterflies Happy Hour-ZOOM Meeting

Sunday, February 21

10:00 am-Worship Service-Live

Streaming

11:00 am-Sunday Together-Zoom

Meeting

2:00 pm-Chalice Circle-ZOOM Meeting

Monday, February 22

2:00 pm-Super Seniors-Zoom Meeting

5:00 pm-Art Talk-ZOOM Meeting

Tuesday, February 23

4:30 pm-Worship Committee-ZOOM

Meeting

Thursday, February 25

12:00 pm-Loving Kindness Meditation-ZOOM Meeting

Friday, February 26

11:00 am-Coffee and Conversation-

ZOOM Meeting

1:30 pm-Afternoon Book Club-ZOOM

Meeting

Saturday, February 27

5:00 pm-Social BUterflies Happy

Friday, February 12
11:00 am-Coffee and Conversation-
ZOOM Meeting

Saturday, February 13
5:00 pm-Social BUterflies Happy
Hour-**ZOOM Meeting**

Sunday, February 14
10:00 am-Worship Service-**Live Streaming**
11:00 am-Sunday Together and Share
the Plate-**Zoom Meeting**
11:30 am-Finance Committee-**Zoom Meeting**

Hour-**ZOOM Meeting**

Sunday, February 28
10:00 am-Worship Service-**Live Streaming**
11:00 am-Sunday Together-**Zoom Meeting**

STAYING CONNECTED

Staying Connected

UUCOD Men's Breakfast: Friday @ 9:00 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

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Plate Collections for Sunday, January 24, 2021 : \$78.76

AV Project Update

Here's a quick update on the AV Project to add big screens in the sanctuary and live streaming of the services.

We submitted the grant proposal on January 14. We now have solid bids covering about 75% of the project, with the remaining items getting locked down over the next few weeks. So far, it looks like we will be right on budget. We have donations for \$19,067, nearly completely covering our \$20,000 share. We also have four volunteers to do much of the installation. Great progress.

All Men's Breakfast Discussion Group

Don't Forget, Friday, February 5th, 2021

Mack Rogers is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting. PLEASE NOTICE THE NEW **TIME:** 9:00 AM Be There!

We will discuss Covid updates, Super Bowl Winner Preferences, Mr. Trump's Impeachment Trial, (and those in DC who are set against it)...What do YOU think? We want your opinion! Also our new administration and what it means to UU's? This is our only, one time a month meeting, so please log in, join us, and catch up....we miss you! Grab your coffee or tea and a snack. Come as you are: Pajamas, nightshirt, whatever...We are all UUCOD family here!

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.
Monthly:



Lifespan Spiritual Growth
Program Offerings

Winter-Spring 2021

The Life Span Spiritual Growth Committee is excited to offer you a wide range of topics this term.

Here's what one of our congregants said about the classes...

"Over the past months while sheltering in place, I have had the pleasure of taking three UUCOD online classes and getting to know fellow congregants, I probably never would have gotten to know if not on Zoom. I want to encourage you to sign up for the next round of classes when they're offered. I learned so much and had a such great time "in the classroom" with my fellow learners."

Visit our website for more information on the classes and to register.

Lifespan
Classes

UUCOD Happy Hour

Attention UUCOD Happy Hour attendees - We will not be meeting this week to avoid conflict with the Bingo Bash. I'll see you all Saturday, Feb 4th 5:00 pm

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

Make it use: 760 485 9289 for phone/text.

NEW DAY RISING

New Day Rising Conference National 2021

Is your congregation ready to take a new step in changing white supremacy culture? Want to learn what your fellow congregations are working on, and how you might apply it at home?

Join a continent of UUs as we explore next steps in creating Beloved UU Communities
Saturday, February 27, 2021 9:00am--6:00pm PT
Registration is individual. Follow the link for full Information.
Youth may attend with written permission.

Contact Jane Zaun, jnzaun@yahoo.com, for questions and/or concerns.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Thanks Received From SafeHouse for Your Share-the-Plate Donations for Harrison House Residents

Thank you to everyone who donated to UUCOD's Holiday Gift Drive for the residents living at SafeHouse's Harrison House. The Social Justice Committee has received a lovely thank you letter for the \$800 in Target gift cards that your November Share-the-Plate donations made possible. Be sure to check their website at www.safehouseofthedesert.com for more information on their programs.

February 21st Share the Plate: Planned Parenthood

With 600 Health Care Centers across the U.S, Planned Parenthood is the nation's leading provider of sex education and high quality health care for all people regardless of financial circumstances. Within the local branch of Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest there are 19 health centers in San Diego, Riverside and Imperial Counties, serving over 130,000 people. Within our Coachella Valley, there are two Planned Parenthood Family Planning Centers - one in Coachella and the other in Rancho Mirage - together serving over 15,000 men and women.

Planned Parenthood's mission is to ensure broad public access to sexual and reproductive health care through three approaches:

- Direct Health Care Services
- Educational Services
- Political Advocacy

Regardless of COVID 19, Planned Parenthood has not closed its doors. They have improved upon their already-pristine protocols to make their Health Care Centers even safer for those who choose to visit their healthcare provider in person. They have also implemented Telehealth so those who wish to be seen and treated virtually, talking with healthcare providers from their homes via a secure internet link.

Planned Parenthood needs our help and support to continue these essential programs. It is important to know that all money goes to help local and regional Centers, helping our neighbors.

Please donate as generously as you are willing and able. Thank you.

STEWARDSHIP

Finance and Facility Stewards

Two vital committees that demonstrate good stewardship for our community at the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Desert are finance and facilities. This coming month you will see members of the finance committee working hard to make our pledge drive successful. However, this is not all they do. The Finance committee oversees the financial health of our church by keeping track of and following our budget as approved by the congregation. Some of their responsibilities involve making deposits, paying bills, payroll, keeping track of contributions and record keeping. If you are someone who likes to see financial health and order, consider joining the Finance Committee. You can reach out to Sarah Gonzales, Finance Chair, at 510-427-9425.

Facilities is another committee that exercises good stewardship at UUCOD. Facilities organizes members to keep our Sacred Grounds beautiful and well cared for. They oversee the care of our building. Currently the committee is working on covid-19 protocols

for when we are able to be together again on our campus. Facilities is also working on new equipment for streaming our Sunday Services. Someday services will be live streamed from the church. When it is safe, some of us will again gather for services together in the sanctuary and others will be able to continue to enjoy the service at home. Whether we are gathering in one place together or joining from around the world, the members of facilities are striving to make those gatherings beautiful and peaceful. If this is one of the ways you would like to contribute to your life at UUCOD, please contact Rod Belshee, Facilities Chair, for more information at 971-404-9425.

BOARD NOTES

BOARD NOTES

These notes do not constitute official minutes of the January 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 February 16, 2021.

At the meeting of the UUCOD Board of Directors on January 19, 2021 the following matters were discussed and/or decided:

Attitude of Gratitude cards were sent to Margaret Beaman, Bryna Blum, Joyce Adams, Katy Faas, Randy Steele, Reuben Gallardo, Peter Mathews, Hiroshi Yamaguchi.

Received an update on the Audio-Visual upgrade. The grant application has been filed. Facilities Committee is beginning work planning for the installation.

The Board approved a motion to adopt the COVID 19 Protocols for the AV Installation.

Discussed organization of the Pledge Drive beginning January 31 that will be conducted virtually. Chris Eager and Sarah Gonzales are working hard to implement the Pledge Drive.

Discussed our budget needs and the effect of the ongoing pandemic on loss of income for us. Approved a motion to apply for a Paycheck Protection Program. forgivable loan.

Discussed a UUA General Assembly Proposed Statement of Conscience, titled "Undoing Intersectional White Supremacy". 25% of UU Congregations must approve adding the Statement of Conscience to the GA agenda in June 2021.

The Board approved by consensus, and our approval was sent to the UUA with our annual Congregational Certification.

Discussed a potential UUCOD volunteer role as a Liaison to the Unitarian Universalist Association to keep connected with our Pacific Southwest District, Pacific Western Region, and the UUA. The Liaison could assist in disseminating information to congregants. Agreed to have small group create a draft job description.

Discussed our agreement from our Board retreat in September that there is need to create a new vision for UUCOD. Agreed to bring this topic up at the Church Council on January 23rd.

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, April 24th: 2:00 - 4:00 pm -- Church Council (via Zoom)

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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