

March 5, 2021



UUCOD Weekly Reminder

SERVICES

[Click here to join our Worship Services at 10:00 AM](#)

March 7, 2021

"Easing Into Infinity"

Worship Leader: Rev. Barbara Fast

Worship Associate: Bryna Blum

This Sunday last year, we were singing the Hokey Pokey in a full Sanctuary. A week later we were streaming worship to you on Facebook, and initiating safety protocols in light of a new virus that was rapidly spreading. This year has brought so many losses and challenges it can be hard to see the good and the gifts.

March 14, 2021

"Comfort and Change"

Worship Leader: Rev. Ian W. Riddell

Worship Associate: Joni Paddock

Why does change make us uncomfortable? What does love call us to do in the face of that discomfort? How do we live in right relationship with each other when we challenge each other's comfort? Rev. Ian shares the first of two reflections inspired by the winners of "Choose a Sermon" at this year's auction.

March 21, 2012

"Spring"

Worship Leader: Rev. Barbara Fast

Worship Associate: Bryna Blum

It is Spring. It is the season of Lent for Christians. It is a spiritual time to make room within

to allow new life to take form and grow.

March 28, 2021

TBD - We will be offering a worship experience that allows our tech team a weekend off.

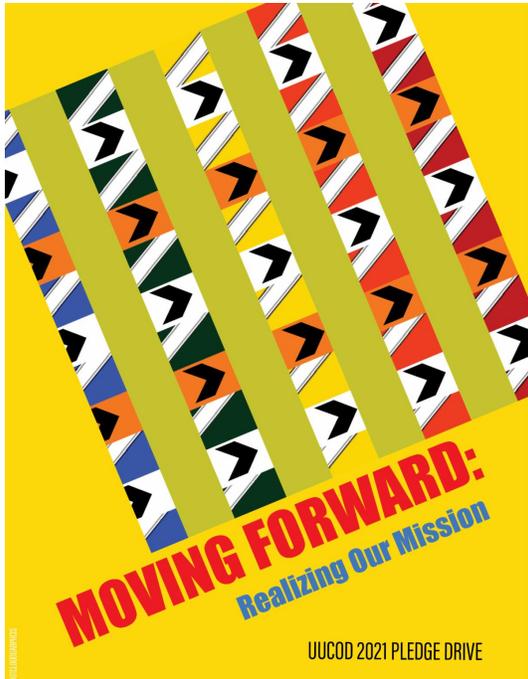
Stay tuned for details.--

Worship Leader: Rev. Barbara Fast

Worship Associate:

COLLECTIONS BASKET

ANNUAL PLEDGE DRIVE REPORT



We are almost at the end of our Annual Pledge Drive and we need your help! Your financial assistance to our beloved community is vital so that together we are **MOVING FORWARD TO REALIZE OUR MISSION**. In the next couple of weeks we will be finalizing our efforts to reach our goal-**We are so close!** You can help by sending in your pledge form as soon as possible. If you've lost your pledge form you can download it here by pressing the button below and mailing it to our treasurer at:

PO Box 2853
Rancho Mirage, CA 92270

Or if you're technically savvy, you can scan your pledge form and email it to our treasurer at: treasurer@uucod.org

PROGRESS TO DATE:

89 Pledges Received

\$162,070 Amount Pledged

88% of Goal (\$185,000)

[Download & Print a Pledge Form](#)

CALENDAR

Sunday Worship: Sunday, March 7, @ 10:00 am

Membership Committee: Tuesday March 9, @ 6:30pm

Let's Get Together: Join in a fun game to celebrate our Pledge Drive, Wednesday, March 10 @ 4:00pm

Social Justice Committee: Thursday, March 11 @ 6:30pm

Special Board Meeting: Friday, March 12 @ 5:30pm

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

DEVELOPMENTAL MINISTRY SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

UUCOD began our journey in Developmental Ministry in the Fall of 2018. We worked with the UUA Transitions Team and established our Developmental Ministry goals before Rev. Barbara joined us. As our Developmental Minister, Rev. Barbara guided, educated, inspired and yes, loved us. Working closely with the UUA Transitions Team, each year of the Developmental Ministry, the Board of Directors has re-evaluated our Developmental goals and revised them as necessary.

With our beloved Rev. Barbara's retirement at the end of her contract in June, the Board is considering our next steps for professional Ministry. The Board is now calling a Special Board Meeting on Friday March 12, 2021 at 5:30pm. We will be examining the status of our Developmental Ministry Goals as well as our Strategic Goals in our decision making process.

As always, everyone is welcome to attend. Agendas for Board Meetings are posted on the UUCOD webpage at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Plate Collections for Sunday, February 28, 2021: \$93.65



Wednesday, March 10th at 4:00PM
hosted by **Linda Savard**

At our next LET'S GET TOGETHER we will celebrate our successful Pledge Drive by playing a rousing game of "Two Truths & a Lie". It's a fun game & you will learn how much you DON'T know about your fellow UUCODers.

Coming

in April, Chris Eager will share some of his exotic travels.
In May, Jim Swanson will surprise us with his presentation.

If you would like to share your travels, an online game or an interesting hobby (& maybe teach us how to), please **contact Sheryl Eaton**

Can You Hear Me Now? Listening Skills In Community"

A Caring Workshop

Saturday, March 27, from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm

How do we act as compassionate listeners with open hearts? How do we elicit sharing appropriately? How do we provide a loving presence in crisis and every day? Join Rev.

Ian as we explore these questions and build some skills. Care Team members and all congregants are invited to this Zoom workshop.

News from the Care Team:

Friends,

Looks like we'll be sheltering in place and being extra careful for a while longer.

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. Your well-being is important to us.

Contact: Bryna Blum

FINANCE COMMITTEE

I am Sarita Gonzales, chair of the UUCOD finance committee. UUCOD is currently in the best financial position it has been in many years. In spite of the pandemic, we are very close to reaching our pledge goal of \$185,000 this year. Part of the reason for this strong financial health is because we have had an excellent treasurer, strong board leadership along with a good finance committee. This year we have had a few members who have had to step down from serving on finance for various reasons and we are looking for new folks who might have an interest. You don't have to have a background in finance, you just need to be a detail oriented person to look over the financial statements and to do some visioning about how we can keep the church in good financial health.

I would like to invite you to our next meeting on March 14 at 11:30 AM shortly after our worship service. We meet on zoom so if you're even remotely interested in serving on the finance committee or even just interested in finding out more about the church's finances please let me know and I will send you the zoom invite. Our meetings are always well organized and we stay on track and typically finish our meetings in 60 minutes.

The finance committee reviews the treasurer's monthly reports, counts the offertory when we are in having services in the building, makes recommendations to the board with regard to the budget, annual pledge drive strategies, insurance coverage and fundraising (we don't lead the fundraisers, we just share ideas). Most of the work of this committee takes place on a very flexible schedule, and much of the brainstorming is done during the meetings so the time commitment for this committee is about 2 to 4 hours per month.

I am available to talk with you if you have any questions about the committee and the time commitment to serve.

Hope to hear from you soon!

Blessings to all
Sarita Gonzales

SOCIAL JUSTICE

It's Time to Nominate Your Favorite Nonprofit for Share the Plate

The Social Justice Committee invites you to nominate your favorite nonprofit organizations to become Share the Plate recipients.

[Nomination Link](#)

Share the Plate enables our Congregation to extend our stewardship into the Coachella Valley community by supporting local social justice organizations that align with our principles. On the third Sunday of each month, half of the plate offerings are donated to a nonprofit organization that was voted on by our members, friends, and guests.

Nominations are open March 5th - April 7th and you may nominate as many organizations as you wish. All nominated organizations will be put to a congregational vote prior to our Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 16. The top nine that are selected via popular vote will become our Share the Plate recipients for October 2021 through June 2022.

If you have any questions or comments, **contact either Ros Hoover or Denise Janssen Eager.**

Share the Plate is March 21: FIND Food Bank

FIND (Food In Need of Distribution) Food Bank has, during its 38 years of service in the Coachella Valley, reached those in need over a 5,000 square mile area, from Anza in the west to Blythe in the east, Joshua Tree in the north to Salton City in the south, usually distributing fresh food seven days a week. Prior to the pandemic, FIND served some 90,000 in the Desert Region monthly. That number has jumped to an average of 150,000 during the pandemic, with a high of 190,000, which FIND has been able to serve even while losing 75% of its volunteers — adults over age 65, who needed to shelter from the virus. That FIND has been able to achieve this remarkable feat speaks volumes about its ingenuity and staff dedication. How efficiently does FIND operate? Every \$20 donated translates into 100 meals!

FIND is a healthy food bank with a strong food rescuing program, deriving some of its supply from big box grocery stores and farms, food that would otherwise go to waste — some nine million pounds of rescued food in 2020. FIND routinely collects food from 52 local grocery stores. In 2020, FIND distributed a combined total of over 24 million pounds of food to our Desert Region, doubling its pre-pandemic average!

To carry on this marvelous service during the pandemic, FIND needs hands as well as financial support. Interested in helping out? A special shift for seniors has been created outdoors (masks and social distancing). Call Ros or Earl Hoover for more information.

Please give generously in your March 21 Plate Offering for FIND. Hungry families need our support!

SAVE THE DATE:

2nd Caring Workshop: "Can You Hear Me Now?" Saturday April 17, 9:30am-12:30pm

Church Council: Saturday April 24, 2:00pm-4:00pm

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 asking to reserve space. The newsletter needs to be on the website by 3:00 pm, Fridays.

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