

March 26, 2021



UUCOD Weekly Reminder

SERVICES

Click here to join our Worship Services at 10:00 AM

March 28, 2021

"Loved into Being"

Link to a Full UUA Worship Service (Tech Team has week off)

<https://vimeo.com/519686297>

For the best experience, get the Vimeo app:

Android - https://bit.ly/vimeo_android

iOS - https://bit.ly/vimeo_ios

COLLECTIONS BASKET

LIFT UP OUR VOICE FOR JUSTICE LIVE INTO THE POWER OF LOVE

Dear Ones,

In light of the terrible mass shooting in Atlanta, I want to lift up our congregational voice in denouncing the anti-Asian violence that has been proliferating in our nation, and too often in California. My heart has been terribly saddened and I am seeking ways, like you, to be able to push back hate and lift up love, without exception.

As devastating and hateful such murders are, I also see how many are raising their voices amid the growing national awareness, calling for action and change, offering care and

support.

Click on this link to a statement of the [Asian Pacific Islander caucus of the UUA](#) sent out by Sarita.

I was recently told that learning history is a mindfulness practice of awakening to realities we were not taught and that we have inherited as a nation. I invite us learn more of the history of Anti Asian violence, forcible removal, discrimination and stereotyping and in so learning find ways lift up our voice for justice, stand together with, and live into the power of love.

Rev B

SHARE THE PLATE

**Share the Plate Currently Has ONLY 4 Nominations! We Need 9!
Now's the Time to Nominate Your Favorite Local Nonprofits!**

Nominate as many of your favorite local non-profits as you wish until April 7. If there are more than 9, we'll vote on the slate of organizations prior to the Annual Meeting on May 16.

The top 9 organizations will be our Share the Plate recipients for October 2021- June 2022.

Questions? Contact Denise Janssen Eager.

[Nomination Form](#)

CALENDAR

"Can You Hear Me Now" Listening Skills Workshop with Rev. Ian:
Saturday March 27 @ 9:30--12:30pm Registration is below.

Super Seniors: Monday, March 29 @ 2:00pm

Art Talk: Monday, March 29@ 5:00pm

"Let's Get Together" Chris Eager's trip to *Peru, Ecuador & the Galapagos.* ,
Wednesday, March 31 @ 10:00am

Men's Breakfast:, April 2 @ 9:00am

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

To Dial in by Phone

+1 408 638 0968

+1 669 900 6833

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Plate Collections for Share the Plate Sunday, March 21, 2021: \$1,233

FIND Food Bank will receive a check for \$641 as our Share the Plate recipient.

"Can You Hear Me Now?" Listening Skills in Community

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.

Boundaries in Community"

Saturday April 17, 1 – 4pm (*Note time change*)

How do we maintain proper and appropriate boundaries when providing care? Where are our limits in terms of our expertise and expectations? How do we assess the appropriateness of levels of care? How do we practice self care, so that our priorities are others' needs? 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.

Bryna Blum

SOCIAL BUUTERFLIES



LET'S get together for a zoom presentation by Chris Eager of his trip to Peru (including Machu Picchu), Ecuador & highlights of the Galapagos.

March 31, 2021 10:00am--12:00pm Pacific Time

Coming

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**



*Lifespan Spiritual Growth
Program Offerings*

Lifespan Spiritual Growth - Spring 2021 Edition

Check out our latest in workshops, book discussions and a very special documentary film viewing.

Join us in April and May as we explore trans-gender perspectives. In June we will discuss the UUA Common Read. **Sign up for Rev. Ian's Caring Workshops "Can You Hear Me Now? Listening Skills In Community" and "Boundaries in Community".**

Visit our Website for Information and Registration

Dear friends in the Pacific Western Region,

We have been made aware of a phishing scam in which someone pretending to be our Regional Lead, Rev. Carlton E. Smith, is asking people via email to purchase gift cards on his behalf. **DO NOT RESPOND TO THESE EMAILS.** They are fraudulent. PWR or UUA staff will **NEVER** ask you to send money in this manner. If you have any questions, please reach out to us at pwr@uua.org.

Thanks,
Your Pacific Western Regional Staff

MEN'S BREAKFAST

All Men's First Friday Coffee/ Breakfast Discussion Group

Don't Forget! Friday, April 2, 2021 at 9 AM.

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

We will discuss: Our personal check-ins, Covid follow ups, and determining where we will meet, **in person**, for outside-served breakfast at our next scheduled meeting on Friday, May 7th.

This is our only, once a month meeting, so please log on, join us and let's all catch up and provide support because we miss you!

Grab your coffee or tea and a snack and join part of your UUCOD family here!

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Coachella Valley Volunteers in Medicine Our Share The Plate Recipient on April 11th

Coachella Valley Volunteers in Medicine (CVVIM) provides a local solution to a national problem – access to healthcare. They believe that everyone has the right to healthcare. The services they provide include primary medical and dental, among many others, at no cost to adults in the Coachella Valley who are uninsured or under-insured.

As a community safety net, the Health Center treats the whole person by addressing chronic conditions such as high blood pressure, diabetes and arthritis. It also treats acute conditions, such as, colds, flu, preventive medicine, diet, and emotional health. In addition to direct patient care, health education and wellness programs are provided.

CVVIM's Health Center has been operating for 11 years and is the only no-cost health clinic in the Coachella Valley. It is staffed by a dedicated and diligent group of healthcare and community volunteers, who along with governmental leaders champion the cause of helping neighbors who are in need.

Join us on Share the Plate Sunday, April 11th, to learn more about this much-needed nonprofit organization.

BOARD UPDATE ON COVID

UUCOD relaxes restrictions on outdoor activities

Riverside County entered the Red Tier on March 16, which triggered the entry of UUCOD

into our Outdoor Phase 2 protocols. That, combined with the recent guidance from the CDC for fully vaccinated people, allows us to relax the outdoor protocols considerably.

Groups up to 25 people are now allowed to gather outside if they are masked OR distanced 6 feet OR fully vaccinated plus one* and meet the other conditions in the Outdoor Phase 2 Protocols. (Group leaders have all been emailed the detailed protocols.)

Individual groups can decide on their own if they choose to meet in-person. The Board offered some Guidance in the email last month, based on UUA Guidance, which is still pertinent.

Q. What UUCOD activities does this allow?

A. Any outdoor activity of 25 people or less, whether on-site or elsewhere. It is up to the group to decide if meeting in-person outdoors is appropriate, especially considering whether all members are comfortable.

Q. What about indoor activities?

A. The building remains closed to activities. The Outdoor Phase 2 Protocols do allow restricted access to the restrooms or kitchen, and use of chairs.

Q. Explain "fully vaccinated plus one".

A. Fully vaccinated is defined by the CDC as everyone is at least two weeks past their final shot. The group may meet without masks or distancing (and even hug!). Fully vaccinated plus one allows inclusion of up to one low-risk household that is not vaccinated. Low-risk means no complicating medical conditions.

Q. When does this take effect?

A. Anytime that Riverside County is in the Red Tier or better. If the County slips back into Purple then UUCOD exits Outdoor Phase 2 Protocols immediately.

Q. Why isn't indoor activity allowed?

A. We are following the more conservative of advice from the UUA, CDC, and county/state. An ad hoc group of volunteers is monitoring the situation and advising the Board. The UUA currently advises against meeting indoors, while the US Supreme Court and county/ state allow churches to meet indoors at 25% capacity (that is 39 people for us). The Board will revisit this each month.

Q. What about the new variant?

A. Conditions change rapidly. The new variant is causing new lockdowns in places like Italy. Dr. Fauci cautions the US to vaccinate quickly and not loosen restrictions too quickly. If infection rates locally go up and the country slips back to purple then UUCOD exits Outdoor Phase 2.

Here is a link to the Board Approved UUCOD Outdoor Phase II COVID Protocols:

[Outdoor Protocols Phase Two](#)

UUA Guidance on in-person gatherings states "Our recommendations for congregations are indeed more stringent than schools and businesses that surround you, for the following reasons:

- As a community that values inclusion and collective care, we don't want to create in-person situations that inadvertently exclude those at higher risk, or create situations that force those at higher risk to publicly identify themselves. Our decision-making must center the needs of the most vulnerable.
- The membership of most UU congregations is an older, more vulnerable population than the general public.
- We do not want congregational staff and ministers to be put at risk on the job.
- A normally-operating congregation presents too many opportunities to spread a highly contagious respiratory virus like COVID-19."

- **[UUA Guidance on Gathering In-Person When COVID-19 Subsides | UUA.org](#)**

Worship in-person

As the pandemic restrictions loosen up, when will we resume in-person services? Well, not for quite a while. There are two factors at play. One is the risk of a larger group indoors, especially with singing. The other is the schedule for the AV system. We will very likely re-open the building for smaller activities first, with in-person worship coming later.

The AV matching grant award moved from January to April and delayed the project three months. (We are not buying the gear until we actually have the award.) That means that the installation, programming, training and time for the production team to get comfortable with the new system all moved out three months as well. We are doing what we can to mitigate part of the delay, such as going ahead with installation of wiring and internet in the building, but it will take a while.

To re-open, the worship services must include both in-person and streaming since some people will want to attend as soon as they can and others will not be comfortable for some time. That means we won't resume in-person services until the AV system is running and the production team is comfortable enough to go live.

We will likely be able to safely re-open the building for other, smaller activities first, with in-person services coming last. We are doing what we can to keep the AV project moving while awaiting the grant, and tracking the latest advice on safe gatherings for larger groups and for singing. We all want to get back together as soon as we can!

SAVE THE DATE:

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.

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Desert

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