

UUCOD Monthly Newsletter June 2021



MESSAGE FROM REV. BARBARA



Tim Nguyen-Photographer

Dear Friends,

The Developmental Ministry I was hired to facilitate with you is concluding. My role is ending and our paths are separating. As I have look over the arc of the past three years, I can appreciate how many goals have been met, how much has been sustained, and how the spirit of love that holds the wholeness of this community has been fostered in large and small ways.

Shared Ministry has been woven into your character, which is as much about how you are together as what you accomplish. Being mindful as we meet to speak and treat each other with respect, holding your own and each other's worth and dignity like a chalice to light our way.

As we emerge from 15 months of pandemic, may you appreciate how well you adapted,

endured, and responded to challenges, to, as the poet wrote, *change each other's despair into hope*. Clearly, this "space" is "holy" to your hearts, whether virtual or physical. You've supported, worked, listened, prayed, sang, spoke up, spoke out, wept, laughed, mourned, celebrated and persisted, resilient and caring.

I commend to you the enduring Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging Ministry. May you continue to address racist and discriminatory systems, to be mindful of those who are impacted by a lack of full inclusion and build beloved community. It is one of the most challenging and hopeful goals you could set for yourselves

I carried within me a sense of loss of not being able to be in the room where the miracle we call worship takes place, but accepted and appreciated the virtual worship opportunities we would not have had otherwise. Again and again, I thank those who have shared the worship ministry with me. Virtual worship, with Music and Choir, demands creativity, time and technical problem solving skill. There are also limitations. None of our streaming or zooming would be possible, without Margaret, Sandy, Jack, Sue, Jonathan, and most of all, Vikki and Michael. Thank you.

I realize that I contain a multitude of "Thank You's". What a blessed way to end! Shout out to the LIFESPAN SPIRITUAL GROWTH has been such a successful Ministry. Likewise, Chalice Circles, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays and all the ways you have gathered each other together through this time. I will offer my sincere thanks to the CARE Team, Bryna and Rev Ian for the enlarging ministry this year.

Social Justice would take up pages of thank yous! Thank you Membership, Sacred Grounds is also emerging. The Covid Team. The COM. The folks in the office getting out this newsletter!! The UUCOD Finance Ministry, Pledge Campaign and Auction, Bingo, Share the Plate, Food Drives and Clothing Drives and Mama Gloria! Well...

A Ministry of Appreciation allows that some things did not get done. Staffing issues held us back but there is an enlarged Administrator role. RE for Children and Youth did get organized twice, did not get implemented, but not for lack of trying. If you have been frustrated, and experience this as a loss, I do too. We are finite.

I want to appreciate this Board of Directors! President Jane Zaun! Big BIG thank you for your steady hands on the oars as we rowed together and your ever available wise kindness! And Jerry L'Hommedieu! You are an impeccably even-keeled financial Guardian and explainer ! Thank you Rod Belshee not just for your dedicated deep dives, and Intelligence but your most appreciated good humor. Carol Lavoie, it is so good that you like what you do here, because you do so much with such a warm heart and it feels good to be around you and learn from your insights. Linda Savard, you bring your clarity and pragmatic wisdom to the BOD conversations and to the Church Council, and you hold up our UU values as north stars. UUCOD is so fortunate you said "Yes" to being Chair! Robert Rancourt, your even handed directness has been invaluable to the Board's successful process, and also you rock as a WA! Mack Rogers, you have been a LIGHT for so much Justice and Love, on the Board, for Social Justice, PRIDE, and the Environment. I add my welcome to Hiroshi Yamaguchi and Linda Moretti as they join the BOD and Carol and Jane move off and onto Nominating. UUCOD is blessed!

Closing gratitude to Rev Dr. Don Stouder, trusted colleague, UUCOD Community Minister and Hospice Chaplain. Big appreciation goes to Reverend Ian Riddell, your incoming Lead Minister. It has been my honor to collaborate with you, and experience your generous ministry. I pass along to you an inscription I read in the front piece of a UU Membership Book that I was steward of years ago. It contained the names, dates and signatures of members, weddings, christenings, memorial services and serving clergy, since 1886.

*"I commend this book to my successor,
wishing him every blessing of human kindness and divine grace. "*

What I want to take with me when I leave is how much we did accomplish, how Shared Ministry is alive and healthy in this community and wish you well on the ministries you will adapt/ create/ expand and the many kindnesses you will bestow upon one another.

To the Members and Friends of UUCOD let the tasks you have chosen for your focus in the times ahead bring you into a larger sense of community, a deeper connection with each other and to the peoples and creatures around you. May you for all the tasks, give

yourselves time to let the joy bubble up, and lift your spirits, celebrating each other, the work you do, the effort you make, the success you enjoy.

To you and all those who will find their way here seeking a place of sanctuary and resistance, a place to grow a soul and help heal the world, I wish for you a full and healthy life, and hope that you know peace, love and the satisfaction of years well spent. That is the religious path...

Now – as we go on our separating ways, *may we go in peace, keep the faith, share the love and bless everyone, no exception. Let us include ourselves.*

*Blessings,
Rev B*

SERVICES

May 30, 2021 **"MUSIC SUNDAY"**

Worship Leader: Rev. Barbara Fast
Choir and Special Guests
Worship Associate: Betty Bender

Join us for a celebration of the tunes and voices that held us together and lifted our spirits this past year.

June 6, 2021 **Gathered Knitted Given**

Worship Leader: Rev. Barbara Fast
Worship Associate: Bob Rancourt

Chaucer wrote, “ The lyfe so shorte, the crafte so long to learn.” That is true about the crafte of knitting, ministry and living.

June 13, 2021 **The Name of the Tree: The Practice of Belonging** **Worship Leader:** Rev. Ian Riddell **Worship Associate:** Sarita Gonzales

We take inspiration from many sources. Scripture, songs, poetry, and stories give us glimpses into the world and our place in it and share about the rich realities of our neighbors' lives. Join us as we share the Bantu tale "The Name of the Tree" and explore what it tells us about commitment, history, and the spiritual quest.

June 20, 2021 **A Love too Big to Fit** **Worship Leader:** Rev. Barbara Fast **Worship Associate:** Bryna Blum

Well, this is my last sermon with you. At this time, I don't know whether we will be live or on tape, but I hope you will receive it, as the blessing I intend for you, your future paths, and mine.

June 27, 2021 **General Assembly Sunday Worship Service**

Join us as we share in the Sunday service from the **2021 Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly**, presented by the First Universalist Church of Minneapolis and shared with Unitarian Universalists around the country and the globe. More information and a link will be sent closer to the date of the service. We're so grateful

REQUEST FOR CONGREGATIONAL VOTING

BOARD TREASURER

As you are now aware, on May 16, 2021 we conducted our Annual Business Meeting and election of Board candidates for the Fiscal Year 2021-22 with an open position for Treasurer.

Since our meeting, we have been notified by the Nominating Committee of a volunteer who has stepped forward to fill the position of Treasurer. ***We are incredibly grateful to Fred Bloss for volunteering!!*** Fred has been a member of UUCOD for 8 years and he brings extensive experience in Information Technology as well as back-office banking and bookkeeping.

For transparency, the Board has again decided to conduct congregational approval by voting with Election Buddy and absentee ballots.

On Sunday June 6, 2021, Election Buddy emails with a link to vote will be sent to members at 12:30pm. Election Buddy system will be open until 12:30pm on Monday June 7, 2021. Absentee Ballots have already been mailed to those who received absentee ballots for the May 16, 2021 Congregational Business Meeting.

NEWS ON BUILDING USE

Several groups have started coming back to the building! The Membership Committee is getting together for a party. The Board is holding an orientation for new Board members. Work parties have resumed. People are meeting in pairs or trios for church business. Hugs are happening! Pam, our new Administrator, starts work in-person on June 1.

California is expected to remove the 50% occupancy restriction on June 15.

Worship and Production are starting discussions about returning to the Sanctuary. There is no timetable or plan yet, but discussions have begun. *A survey is being done to give you the opportunity to express your comfort level and preferences around returning to the Sanctuary for worship services. Contact Rod Belshee or Fran Hoag if you need the survey.*

Much of our AV gear remains out-of-stock, but we will have enough to return to Sunday Worship while simultaneously streaming. Over the rest of the year we can add more capabilities and quality.

Reminder: Our policy on building use is rather simple: vaccination is required, a Safety Coordinator must maintain a record for Contact Tracing, and if any one person requests, then everyone wears a mask.

CALENDAR

Saturday, May 29

5:00 pm-Social BUUterflies Happy
Hour-**ZOOM Meeting**

Sunday, May 30

10:00 am-Worship Service - **ZOOM**

Monday, June 14

8:00 am - Work Party

Tuesday, June 15

10:00 am - Common Read Discussion
-**ZOOM**

11:00 am-Sunday Together-**ZOOM Meeting**

Monday, May 31

8:00 am- Work Party

2:00pm-Super Seniors-**ZOOM Meeting**

Tuesday, June 1

9:30am-Diversity, Inclusion, Belonging

Ministry **ZOOM Meeting**

2:00 pm-Stewardship Committee-**ZOOM Meeting**

Wednesday, June 2

6:30 pm-Facilities Committee-**ZOOM Meeting**

Thursday, June 3

10:00 am Let's Get Together - **ZOOM**

12:00 pm-Loving Kindness Meditation-**ZOOM Meeting**

Friday, June 4

8:00am-Men's Breakfast

11:00 am-Coffee and Conversation-**ZOOM Meeting**

Saturday, June 5

1:00 pm - Board Orientation - Church

5:00 pm-Social BUterflies Happy

Hour-**ZOOM Meeting**

Sunday, June 6

10:00 am-Worship Service-**ZOOM**

11:00 am-Sunday Together-**ZOOM Meeting**

Monday, June 7

8:00 am - Work Party

6:30 pm - Care Team **ZOOM**

Tuesday, June 8

5:30 pm-Membership Committee-**ZOOM Meeting**

Thursday, June 10

12:00 pm-Loving Kindness Meditation-**ZOOM Meeting**

6:30 pm-Social Justice Committee-**ZOOM**

5:00 pm-Board of Directors-**ZOOM Meeting**

Wednesday, June 16

4:30 pm - BIOPAC- **ZOOM Meeting**

Thursday, June 17

12:00 pm-Loving Kindness Meditation-**ZOOM Meeting**

Friday, June 18

11:00 am-Coffee and Conversation-**ZOOM Meeting**

Saturday, June 19

8:30 am - Rev. Barbara Celebration

5:00 pm-Social BUterflies Happy

Hour-**ZOOM Meeting**

Sunday, June 20

10:00 am-Worship Service-**ZOOM**

10:00 am-Share the Plate-Palm Springs

Animal Shelter

11:00 am-Sunday Together-**ZOOM Meeting**

Monday, June 21

8:00 am - Work Party

Tuesday, June 22

4:30 pm-Worship Committee-**ZOOM Meeting**

Thursday, June 24

12:00 pm-Loving Kindness Meditation-**ZOOM Meeting**

Friday, June 25

11:00 am-Coffee and Conversation-

ZOOM Meeting

1:30 pm - Afternoon Book Club- **ZOOM Meeting**

Saturday, June 26

5:00 pm-Social BUterflies Happy

Hour-**ZOOM Meeting**

Sunday, June 27

10:00 am-Worship Service- **ZOOM**

Meeting

Friday, June 11

11:00 am-Coffee and Conversation-
ZOOM Meeting

Saturday, June 12

9:00 am- Second Saturday Stroll
5:00 pm-Social BUUterflies Happy
Hour-**ZOOM Meeting**

Sunday, June 13

10:00 am-Worship Service-**ZOOM**
11:00 am -Sunday Together- **ZOOM**
11:30 am-Finance Committee-**ZOOM**
Meeting

11:00 am-Sunday Together -**ZOOM**
Meeting

Monday, June 28

8:00 am - Work Party
10:30 am-Climate and Environmental
Justice Committee-**ZOOM Meeting**
2:00pm-Super Seniors-**ZOOM Meeting**

Thursday, July 1

12:00 pm-Loving Kindness Meditation-
ZOOM Meeting

Friday, July 2

8:00am-Men's Breakfast
11:00 am-Coffee and Conversation-
ZOOM Meeting

STAYING CONNECTED

Staying Connected

Social BUUterflies Happy Hour: Saturday, May 29 @ 5:00 - 6:00 pm

Sunday Together: Sunday, May 30 @ 11:00 am -12:00 pm

Work Party: Monday, May 31 @ 8:00 am On the Church Grounds

Super Seniors: Monday, May 31 @ 2:00 pm

DIBM: Tuesday, June 1 @ 9:30 am

Stewardship Committee: Tuesday, June 1 @ 2:00 pm

Facilities Committee: Wednesday, June 2 @ 6:30 pm

Let's Get Together: Thursday, June 3 @ 10:00 am

Loving Kindness Meditation: Thursday, June 3 @ 12:00 - 12:30 pm

Men's Breakfast: Friday, June 4 @ 8:00am **In Person**--See notice later in newsletter

Coffee & Conversation: Friday, June 4 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Board Orientation: Saturday, June 5 @ 1:00 pm -- In Church Building

Social BUUterflies Happy Hour: Saturday, June 5 @ 5:00 - 6:00 pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Plate Collections for Sunday, May 23: \$82.00

**Hey Men of UUCOD....
The First Friday MEN'S BREAKFAST is on again!**

Friday, June 4th at 8:00 AM
The Palms Cafe
69930 CA-111 STE 120, Rancho Mirage (in the Atrium Plaza)

Please join us at our new location. It has an outside breakfast area and I will have tables specified for UUCOD. Come hungry for great food and great in-person conversation...finally! (Mask required only if you will be going inside or using the restroom) The outside dining area is right in front off the parking lot.

Mark your calendars NOW, and we'll see you there! Thanks!

Mack Rogers – UUCOD Board Member

CARING FOR OUR GROUNDS

Who: "Handypersons Get Together"

When: Mondays @ 8:0--11:00am

Where: UUCOD Parking Lot

We have been given the green light to resume our weekly handypersons get together. All are welcome. We find it's a good opportunity for some fellowship while contributing to the care of our grounds.

We will be doing some light weeding, picking up and anything else that appears to need some attention.

If interested, you are welcome. Be sure to wear sun screen and a hat, and bring some water.

Condolences

for the Family of Vivian Penniman who died on May 3, 2021 at the age of 91.

Vivian and Alton were long time members of UUCOD.

This email was received from their sons:

Aloha

Please, accept our sincere appreciation for you and the community of UUCOD for welcoming our parents, Alton & Vivian Penniman, during the years they spent in the desert. We truly appreciate the community into which they became members.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Jay & Eric Penniman & Family

Appreciation for our contribution to DRUMM

Dear All,

Appreciations to you and your community for co-sponsoring of DRUUMM's May 19th Worship and Fundraiser. We had 500 people join our virtual congregation, 75 join via livestream, and another 175 view the full service afterwards. We are grateful for your visible support, and pleased to announce that we have reached our goal of \$35,000 through your contributions and individual donations. This strengthens our capacity for the coming year.

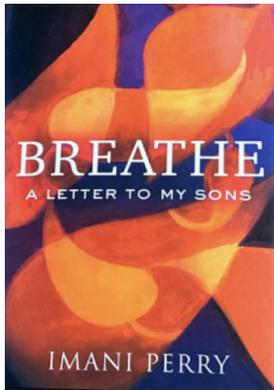
We have posted the **full service on our website** where you can view and share with others. We recognized co-sponsors via our Order of Service, the Worship Slide Deck, on DRUUMM.org, and through social media.

Thank you again for your time and treasure. We look forward to connecting with you in the future. May you feel the blessing of all our communities.

With peace,

LIFESPAN SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Join us in June as we participate in the UUA Common Read



Purchase this book from an independent bookseller or through Amazon.



Book Discussion of Breathe: A Letter to My Sons
June 15, 10 am - Noon
Discussion Leader: Fran Hoag

What Is a Common Read?

A Common Read invites participants to read and discuss the same book in a given period of time. The UUA Common Read can build community in our congregations and our movement by giving diverse people a shared experience, shared language, and a basis for deep, to meaningful conversations.

See upcoming events on our webpage for more information or contact Fran Hoag.

SOCIAL BUUTERFLIES



Thursday June 3 at 10 am
Leader: Leslie Gebhart
All welcome!

What's on your heart and mind as we begin to re-enter...remain cautious and tap into our resiliency or anxious, unsettled, happy, adventurous, or maybe not sure of how you feel?

Together we've experienced a collective brush with mortality—yet, we made it and we're still here...

What's next?

Please come and join us on zoom for an interactive discussion as we ease out of a challenging 14 months of pandemic-living. We hope that each person attending will contribute whether by the zoom chat feature or vocally so each feels heard, seen, understood and welcomed into the dialogue.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Palm Springs Animal Shelter is Our June 13th Share the Plate

UUCOD will be Sharing the Plate with Palm Springs Animal Shelter on Sunday, June 13. What makes it so special is it's among the few that are no-kill shelters that cater to the needs of the greater Palm Springs area.

The original shelter, built in 1961, over time became woefully inadequate in meeting the needs of Palm Springs' animal population. In 2009, the City of Palm Springs allocated \$5 million in a capital improvement bond and the resulting shelter now stands as a model for all of Southern California.

Committed to being a humane and compassionate animal care and adoption center, the shelter does not euthanize for space or if an animal has been there for a long period of time.

The Friends of the Palm Springs Animal Shelter are so committed to the welfare of all animals, they have adopted an animal-friendly vegan menu policy for all their events.

To meet the challenge of compassionately operating a public shelter, Friends of the Palm Springs Animal Shelter relies on donations, volunteers, community support and of course, ADOPTIONS! Please give generously on our final Share the Plate Sunday of the 2020-2021 year!

News from the Care Team

Friends,

I hope you have gotten or soon will be getting your Covid shots. We should still mask indoors, wash our hands and keep our distance when we are in doubt..

PLEASE reach out if you're not well, need a meal delivered or just want someone with a caring heart to chat with for a while. We're YOUR Care Team. So PLEASE don't be shy. Your well-being is important to us.

Contact Bryna Blum

2021-22 SHARE THE PLATE

2021 Summer Share the Plate

Recently, UUCOD's Board of Directors gave the Social Justice Committee permission to select & hold Share the Plate during the summer months, July - September. Here are the 3 organizations you will be seeing this summer:

Los Médicos Voladores aka The Flying Doctors. July 11. Liaison: Mack Rogers

The Ecomedia Compass. August 15. Liaison: Mack Rogers

Galilee Center ,September 19. Liaisons: Carol McDaniel & Linda Moretti

The Share the Plate Slate October 2021 - June 2022

Thirty-five people voted for these top nine nonprofit organizations:

FIND Food Bank - Nominators & Liaisons: Ros & Earl Hoover and Mel Wilkinson

Galilee Center - Nominator & Liaison: Sue Caspari

SafeHouse of the Desert - Nominator: Sarita Gonzales, Liaison: Jane Betts-Stover

Well in the Desert - Nominators: Bill Smith & Rusty Kaplan, Liaison: Chris Eager

Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest - Nominator: Jane Betts-Stover & Liaisons: Margaret Manson & Sandy Sladen

Martha's Village & Kitchen - Nominator & Liaison: Joni Paddock

The Community Food Bank at the Center - Nominator & Liaison: Linda Savard

Safe Schools Desert Cities - Nominator & Liaison: Gloria Kapp

TODEC (Training Occupational Development Educating Communities) - Nominator & Liaison: Sarita Gonzales

BOARD NOTES

BOARD NOTES

These notes do not constitute official minutes of the May 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 June 15, 2021. At the meeting of the UUCOD Board of Directors on May 18, 2021 the following matters were discussed and/or decided:

- Attitude of Gratitude cards were sent to Fran Hoag, Gloria Kapp, Sarita Gonzales, Hiroshi Yamaguchi, and Rob DuWors.
- Moved to approve the concept of paying off the mortgage with Finance Committee taking the lead in forming a Capital Campaign to pay off or reduce the mortgage and prepare presentations for the congregation.
- Moved to approve a Right Relations Policy brought to the Board by the Committee on Ministry.
- Discussed the status of Sacred Grounds.
- Heard a report from Jane Betts Stover regarding revitalization of the "pavers"; agreed to form an Ad Hoc Aesthetics team to create a proposal for the pavers and Celebration Garden to bring back to the Board.
- Discussed revisions to a draft of the Covenant between the Board and DIBM.
- Discussed and tabled a request from Desert Outreach Synagogue to return to UUCOD for Shabbat Services.
- Agreed to form a subgroup of Board members with Rev. Barbara to create a draft of our final Developmental Ministry Assessment for approval at the June Board Meeting.

Newsletter Deadlines: The deadline for the Newsletter is always Wednesday morning. If you are going to be late, call or email the Administrator at admiin@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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