

UUCOD Monthly Newsletter

JULY 2021



MESSAGE FROM REV. IAN



Hello Friends,

How grateful and humble I am to be taking up the mantle of serving you as your lead minister. I have come to love you and this community over the past year and am deeply inspired by the visions you are dreaming and by the love and kindness you continue to share with each other.

I'm so glad to be on this journey with you.

As I said at our celebration for Rev. Barbara a few weeks ago, I've been moved as I watched you take care of each other and this community over the past year. And I know that the year ahead will be full of opportunities for all of us to imagine and bring to life that care in new and deeper ways. As we expand our ministry of diversity, inclusion, and belonging; as we come together again face-to-face in Sunday worship; as we revitalize our music ministry; as we continue and expand our lifespan faith development and reimagine how we can serve all ages.

All that is to come. And I hope in these summer months you will also hear a call to rest a little. To find ways to stay cool and to listen to your hearts and your bodies and what they need of you right now.

I want to share with you my schedule in July and August:

- Sundays, I'll be with you in worship online and working from home
- Mondays and Tuesdays, I'll be in the office from 10am to around 4pm
- Wednesdays and Saturdays, I'll be working from home and available for

appointments by phone and Zoom

- Thursdays and Fridays are my days off

We are working on updating phone and e-mail for the minister. For now, please contact me via email or by leaving a message with Pam in our office. Please don't hesitate to reach out.

I am so looking forward to getting to know you all even more deeply and building this community and our ministry to it together.

in peace and love
Rev. Ian

SERVICES

July 4, 2021

Whose Are We? Faith, Love, and Patriotism

Worship Leader: Rev. Ian W. Riddell

Worship Associate: Derek Moore

How is it possible to be patriotic in these time? What do those of us who call this place home owe to each other? To which values do we give our allegiance?

July 11, 2021

The Doctrine of Discovery: Then and Now

Worship Leader: Kevin Brandt

Worship Associate: Robert Rancourt

In this sermon Kevin Brandt discusses the 15th Century Doctrine of Discovery as principally set forth in the Papal Encyclical "Inter Caetera.". With Robert's help, he will explore Inter Caetera and other Encyclicals which in combination gave legal authorization to any Christian leader to kill indigenous people and plunder their lands; he will discuss the doctrine's enduring legacy and legal relevance today.

July 18, 2021

Worship from the Wider World

Join us as we share a powerful, healing, and uplifting service from our recent Unitarian Universalist General Assembly.

July 25, 2021

Empty Lands: The Prequel

Worship Leader: Kevin Brandt

Worship Associate: Jane Zaun

In this sermon Kevin Brandt discusses the 11th Century Papal Encyclical "Terra Nulles," as well as other Encyclicals. The Encyclicals are the chronological predecessor to the Doctrine of Discovery. With Jane's help, he will explore their authorization to enable Christian Leaders to plunder "Empty" lands, and engage in the slave trade. Kevin will discuss the effects of the Encyclicals and their enduring legacy to this day.

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Happy summer everyone!

As we begin this new church year, I want to thank those who have led us this far. Thank you to Reverend Barbara Fast, for guiding us through the past three years as our Developmental Minister. She helped us set our boat and set us on our way. Thank you to Jane Zaun, as Board President, for so astutely guiding us through Covid-19 and our current transitions. We thank Jerry L'Hommedieu, for all of his years of service as

Treasurer. He has helped us grow our financial stability. And to Carol Lavoie, as First Vice President, thank you for helping our community stay together. She helped us find new ways to be together during this difficult time apart.

And now we welcome Rev. Ian Riddell, as our new lead minister. He will guide us as we continue to grow into and through our strategic plan. We also have new faces of leadership on our board of directors and as chairs of our various committees. We look forward to working together this coming year as we navigate returning to our church building.

Rod Belshee and the facilities team have been working tirelessly the past few months to enable us to become a multi-platform church. Soon we will be able to worship in church and online at the same time. Stop by the church, see the work in progress and give Rod a great big thank you for all he has and is doing on our behalf.

As your new Board president, I look forward to getting to know you better and to working with you as we continue our growth as Unitarian Universalists. At the UUA General Assembly this year the association adopted a new Statement of Conscience (SOC). The title of that statement is "Undoing Systemic White Supremacy: A Call to Prophetic Action". We are being called to engage with those already on the front lines moving to overcome racism and dismantle systems of white supremacy. We want to build relationships across boundaries of privilege and oppression. And we are committed to healing actions within our church and the wider community. I know we can work together to support this SOC and help to transform our world into a more just and equitable society.

If you have any questions or concerns, please give me a call, or send me an email.

In peace and love,
Linda Savard, Board President

LET'S PAY-OFF THE MORTGAGE



On May 18, 2021, the Board of Directors authorized the Finance Committee to organize a capital campaign to raise funds to pay off the existing mortgage on our building. We would like to enlist your help and generosity to raise at least \$75,000 to be applied to the mortgage by May 2022. A generous couple in the congregation has already pledged \$10,000 towards this effort to be matched by other individuals who can give any amount. If you would like to be part of this exciting project, please contact [Chris Eager](#) or [Sarita Gonzales](#). Just click on our name and you can send us an email. If you've already decided that you want to contribute to this great cause, please download the form from the weekly newsletter email and mail it with your check to our treasurer. Thank you in advance for your generous donation!

CALENDAR

Thursday, July 1

Friday, July 2

8:00 am-Men's Breakfast

11:00 am-Coffee and Conversation-

Saturday, July 17

5:00 pm-Social BUUterflies Happy

Hour-ZOOM Meeting

Sunday, July 18

ZOOM Meeting

Saturday, July 3

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

Sunday, July 4

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

Monday, July 5

8:00 am-Work Party
5:15 pm-Monday Meditation
6:30 pm-Care Team-**ZOOM Meeting**

Tuesday, July 6

9:30 am-DIBM Meeting-**ZOOM Meeting**
2:00 pm-Stewardship Committee-**ZOOM Meeting**

Wednesday, July 7

12:15pm-Beloved Conversations Follow-up-**ZOOM Meeting**
6:30 pm-Facilities-**ZOOM Meeting**

Thursday, July 8

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

Friday, July 9

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

Saturday, July 10

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

Sunday, July 11

10:00 am-Worship Service-**ZOOM**
10:00 am-Share the Plate
11:00 am-Sunday Together-**ZOOM Meeting**

Monday, July 12

5:15 pm-Monday Meditation

Tuesday, July 13

10:00 am-Worship Service-**ZOOM**
11:00 am -Sunday Together-**ZOOM**

Monday, July 19

3:00 pm-Chalice Circle-**ZOOM**
5:15 pm-Monday Meditation

Tuesday, July 20

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

Wednesday, July 21

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

Thursday, July 22

Friday, July 23

11:00 am-Coffee and Conversation-**ZOOM Meeting**
1:30pm-Afternoon Book Club-**Zoom Meeting**

Saturday, July 24

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

Sunday, July 25

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

Monday, July 26

2:00 pm-Super Seniors-**Zoom Meeting**
5:15 pm-Monday Meditation

Tuesday, July 27

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

Wednesday, July 28

10:00 am-Lifespan Book Discussion-**ZOOM Meeting**

Thursday, July 29

Friday, July 30

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

Wednesday, July 14

Thursday, July 15

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

Friday, July 16

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

See the weekly newsletter for live zoom links!

Saturday, July 31

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

Sunday, August 1

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

STAYING CONNECTED

Staying Connected

(Starting July 20th the Tuesday Staying Connected Mid-Week Reminder will no longer be sent out)

Men's Breakfast: Friday, July 2 @ 8:00am **In Person**

Coffee & Conversation: Friday, July 2 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Social BUUterflies Happy Hour: Saturday, July 3 @ 5:00 - 6:00 pm

Sunday Together: Sunday, July 4 @ 11:00 am -12:00 pm **Stay in Zoom After Service**

Work Party: Monday, July 5 @ 8:00 am On the Church Grounds

Monday Meditation: Monday, July 5 @ 5:15 pm **In Person**

Care Team: Monday, July 5 @ 6:30 pm

DIBM Meeting: Tuesday, July 6 @ 9:30 am

Stewardship Committee: Tuesday, July 6 @ 2:00 pm

Beloved Conversations Follow-up: Wednesday, July 7 @ 12:15 pm

Facilities: Wednesday, July 7 @ 12:15 pm

Social Justice Committee: Thursday, July 8 @ 6:30 pm

Coffee & Conversation: Friday, July 9 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Social BUUterflies Happy Hour: Saturday, July 10 @ 5:00 - 6:00 pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS

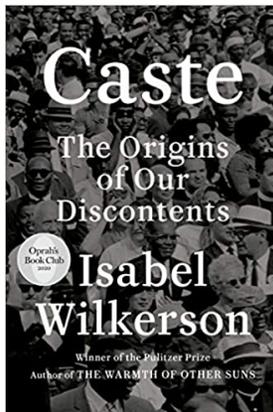
Plate Collections for Sunday, June 27th: \$60.00

ART TALK

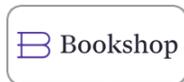
Art Talk is taking a creative break until September. Until then keep drawing, knitting, making origami, sculpting, making mosaics, sewing, baking, making collages, crocheting, and whatever other creative outlet you have. Please consider joining us in the fall either as artist or audience.

LIFESPAN SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

Join us in July for an online book discussion



Purchase this book from an independent bookseller or through Amazon.



Book Discussion of Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents
July 28, 10 am - 11:30 am
Discussion Leader: Evelyn Kain

"As we go about our daily lives, caste is a wordless usher in a darkened theater, flashlight cast down in the aisles, guiding us to our assigned seats for a performance. The hierarchy of caste is not about feelings or morality. It is about power--which groups have it and which do not."

SOCIAL JUSTICE

2021-22 SHARE THE PLATE

Los Médicos Voladores del Sur de California aka The Flying Doctors of Southern California is our July 11th Share the Plate Recipient

Almost twenty-five years ago, the first team of volunteer physicians, dentists, general volunteers and pilots flew into the Thermal airport to spend a full day offering free medical, dental, and optometry clinics to Eastern Coachella Valley's underserved, uninsured working poor. These teams became known as *Los Médicos Voladores del Sur de California*, which is Spanish for *The Flying Doctors of Southern California*. Since that momentous day, they have offered free high-quality medical, dental, optometry, and other healthcare clinics, treating thousands of patients who wouldn't be able to afford it with today's medical skyrocketing prices and would have gone without, putting their lives in grave jeopardy.

Their next free clinic will be Saturday, September 25 at Desert Mirage High School. Luz Moreno, President of Los Médicos Voladores SoCal, shared that at their 2019 clinic, they had more than 600 people attend, receiving more than 1200 services. With the COVID pandemic cancelling their 2020 clinic, she expects to see even more people attending this year. She notes that these are our "brothers, sisters, and children" who have been working on the frontlines in migrant farm communities for very low pay. For over two years they

have had to do without any healthcare, which means their needs will be even more complicated.

On Sunday, July 11th please open your hearts and wallets to *Los Médicos Voladores del Sur de California* and give generously. Thank you.

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

NEWS FROM THE CARE TEAM

Friends,

I hope you have gotten your Covid shots. That doesn't mean the rules have totally changed. Wear a mask and/or keep your distance if you are unsure of your environment and continue to wash your hands to be extra safe.

PLEASE reach out if you're not well, need a meal 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.

Bryna Blum

BOARD NOTES

BOARD NOTES

These notes do not constitute official minutes of the June 2021, 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 July 20, 2021.

At the meeting of the UUCOD Board of Directors on June 15, 2021, the following matters were discussed and/or decided:

Attitude of Gratitude cards were sent to Rob DuWors, Joni Paddock, Randy Steele, Leslie Gebhart.

Received an update from the Finance Committee on progress of the campaign to pay off the mortgage.

Moved to approve the final Developmental Ministry Assessment required by the UUA as we close our Developmental Ministry.

Moved to approve a Covenant between the Board and the Diversity, Inclusion, Belonging Ministry.

Moved to approve the proposal from the Sacred Stones team for existing pavers to be moved around a statue donated by Gene Kain to create a new Celebration Garden.

Requested the Sacred Stones team complete a proposal for sidewalks with drawings and bids to present at a future Board Meeting.

Approved a revision to our Phase 1 Indoor Covid-19 Protocols:

- Clarify that the worship and production teams may meet to create the services and allow small watch parties, but not allow general in-person attendance.
- Remove the requirement for proof of vaccination (retaining requirement for vaccination to be indoors).
- Revise the protocols for singing to align with the new, specific UUA Guidance.

Received from the Committee on Ministry (COM), a proposed Destructive Behavior Policy. Following discussion, the Board requested COM consider revisions to certain areas and return the policy to the Board for approval.

Discussed recommendations from the Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging Ministry to the Board requesting that the Board update the UUCOD Covenant and form a UUCOD Anti-Racism Policy. Decided to work together with DIBM on a broad transformation process within the congregation that will include the recommendations from DIBM.

Engaged in a lengthy discussion around re-entry for Sunday in-person worship services.

Agreed to a target date of September 12 for re-opening in-person worship to Friends and Members who are vaccinated. Re-opening for the general public or unvaccinated people is deferred.

Office Administrator Hours: Pam will be in the office the following times:

Monday-Thursday: 10:00 am - 2:30pm

Friday: 9:30 am - 4:00 pm

*There are times she may be on errands. Please make an appointment to ensure she is in the office.

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.

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Desert

72425 Via Vail - Rancho Mirage CA 92270 - (760) 321-0694

