

UUCOD Monthly Newsletter

August 2021



MINISTER'S MESSAGE

"BREAD NOT STONE"



Beginnings are powerful times. We are filled with excitement and hope for the possibilities of new relationships, new explorations. And we can also struggle with anxiety and fear of the unknown and of the past.

All of these are our companions as we grow into our new ministry together. I carry them all as I begin this new phase with you and I expect that you do as well.

Through my life experiences, I have come to a place where I aspire to enter into all encounters, all relationships, all beginnings with kindness and what I have come to call “holy curiosity.”

When I encounter newness, I strive to be curious not skeptical. By curious, I mean entering in rather than holding back—open rather than fearfully closed—hopeful rather than resigned. Willing to be changed by the encounter and understanding what it is I bring with me when I enter the room.

And I use the word “holy” because I do all this in the service of the larger work that we are committing to together—because I understand that we are all deeply connected to each other through the covenants we make with each other and through the interconnections we share with all of life.

For me, this is the daily practice of love and how I choose to live it out in the world. The new title of my monthly newsletter column—“Bread not Stone”—reflects this practice and is taken from a centering passage by Ursula K. LeGuin: “Love doesn’t just sit there, like a stone, it has to be made, like bread, remade all the time, made new.”

I am deeply grateful and humbled to be starting this new phase of ministry with you. I do not yet know what the bread of our work together will be, but I know—if we enter into its making with curiosity and love and with the aspiration to build the beloved community within our hearts and within the walls of the congregation and beyond—then it will be sweet and nourishing and sustain us and our community through joy and challenge alike.

in peace and love
Rev. Ian

SERVICES

August 1, 2021

it’s not what it looks like

Guest Worship Leader: Daniela Uribe

Worship Associate: Denise Janssen Eager, Social Justice Committee Chair

You’ve probably heard of youth climate activist, Greta Thunberg, but you probably haven’t heard of 18-year-old Coachella Valley Water Activist, Daniela Uribe. Last May, Daniela graduated from La Quinta High School. As a Senior, she released a film about a science experiment that she conducted THREE TIMES that compared the water taken from Eastern Coachella Valley to water taken from homes in our resort cities within the Coachella Valley and centers around the environmental and societal impacts of Eastern Coachella Valley drinking water. Her film is eye opening! Afterwards, Denise has the honor of talking with Daniela.

August 8, 2021

Belonging: Our Longing for Community

Guest Worship Leader: Mariela Pérez Simons

Worship Associate: Sarita Gonzales

The Rev. Mariela Pérez Simons is an ordained Unitarian Universalist minister residing in Michigan. She was born in Cuba and has a mixed ancestry (Indigenous, African, and Spanish). She grew up in Cuba during a time when religion was forbidden, which instilled in her a commitment to the freedom of individuals to seek truth and meaning on their own terms. She and her family became political refugees in the United States in 1995.

Her sermon addresses our longing for community as we come out of this period of isolation after nearly a year and a half of coping with COVID-19. We all have a longing in our hearts to be part of a greater whole, to be part of loving community. Rev. Mariela will share with us her inspiring story about needing to belong and searching for a spiritual home.

August 15, 2021

The Salton Sea

Guest Worship Leader: Kerry Morrison, Executive Director of the EcoMedia Compass

Worship Associate: Denise Janssen Eager, Social Justice Committee Chair

In drawing from Salton Sea experiences, Kerry Morrison discusses the interconnectedness we all share with each other and the natural world. Healthy environments provide the best place for healthy and happy communities in which we are all given the opportunities to live our best lives. Though many challenges face our environment, we can each make significant impacts. Habits lead to actions, lead to the joining of hearts with others who believe we can heal our planet, together. We will also be Sharing the Plate with The EcoMedia Compass today.

August 22, 2021

Voice Still and Small: Summer Hibernation

Worship Leader: Rev. Ian W. Riddell

Worship Associate: Byrna Blum

In our part of the world, the summer sun and heat often cause us to retreat and shelter. How can this be a time of rest and renewal and reflection?

August 29, 2021

Joy and Woe are Woven Fine: The Blessings of this Year

Worship Leader: Rev. Ian W. Riddell

Worship Associate: Derek Moore

Many religious traditions call us to understand that our joys and blessings are often interwoven with our pain and challenges. How can we see and be grateful for the blessings that have come while we honor and attend to the griefs that this past year has brought?

Worship Service/Sunday Together

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

August is a quiet time in the desert. It's a time of year when many of us will go on vacation, rest and renew ourselves for the work of the coming year. I hope each of you have the opportunity to step away from your day to day lives. Go on an adventure, walk in nature, swim, read, write, paint, meditate, do whatever renews you and feeds your soul.

Tom Robins said, " Each time we exhale, the world ends; when we inhale, there can be, if we allow it, rebirth and spiritual renewal. It all transpires inside of us. In our consciousness, in our hearts. All the time."

May August be a time of deep breathing for all of us. May we come back together in September renewed and ready to do the joyful work of the church.

In peace and love,
Linda Savard, UUCOD Board President

CALENDAR

Sunday, August 1

10:00 am-Worship Service-ZOOM

11:00 am -Sunday Together-ZOOM

Tuesday, August 17

Wednesday, August 18

4:30 pm - BIOPOC- ZOOM Meeting

Monday, August 2

5:15 pm-Monday Meditation

Tuesday, August 3

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

Wednesday, August 4

Thursday, August 5

Friday, August 6

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

Saturday, August 7

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

Sunday, August 8

10:00 am-Worship Service-**ZOOM Meeting**
11:00 am-Sunday Together-**ZOOM Meeting**
11:30am – 12:30pm Finance Committee-**ZOOM Meeting**

Monday, August 9

5:15 pm-Monday Meditation

Tuesday, August 10

Wednesday, August 11

Thursday, August 12

Friday, August 13

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

Saturday, August 14

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

Sunday, August 15

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

Thursday, August 19

Friday, August 20

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

Saturday, August 21

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

Sunday, August 22

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

Monday, August 23

1:00 pm-Craft Circle-**ZOOM Meeting**
5:15 pm-Monday Meditation

Tuesday, August 24

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

Wednesday, August 25

Thursday, August 26

Friday, August 27

11:00 am-Coffee and Conversation-**ZOOM Meeting**
1:30 – 2:30pm-Afternoon Book Club-**ZOOM Meeting**

Saturday, August 28

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

Sunday, August 29

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

Monday, August 30

2:00 – 3:00pm-Super Seniors-Zoom Meeting
5:15 pm-Monday Meditation

Tuesday, August 31

Monday, August 16

1:00 pm-Craft Circle **In Person**

5:15 pm-Monday Meditation

1:00 pm-Craft Circle

STAYING CONNECTED

Staying Connected

Sunday Together: Sunday, August 1 @ 11:00 am -12:00 pm **Stay in Zoom After Service**

Monday Meditation: Monday, August 2 @ 5:15 pm **In Person**

Stewardship Committee: Tuesday, August 3 @ 2:00 pm

Men's Breakfast: Friday, August 6 @ 8:00am **In Person**

Coffee & Conversation: Friday, August 6 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Social BUUterflies Happy Hour: Saturday, August 7 @ 5:00 - 6:00 pm

Sunday Together: Sunday, August 8 @ 11:00 am -12:00 pm **Stay in Zoom After Service**

Finance Committee: Sunday, August 8 @ 11:30 - 12:30 pm

Monday Meditation: Monday, August 9 @ 5:15 pm **In Person**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Plate Collections for July 25, 2021: \$30.00

It's That Time Again...

Covid-19 Shutdown is Over!

In Person Services Resume

September 12, 2021

The Annual Silent Auction is

November 5, 2021

That means that the Annual Membership Directory is coming out and updates are requested.

If any of your information has changed over the past year, such as your address, phone number or if you had a change of name during Covid-19 time we, at the Membership Committee, would like to know.

You can contact Barbara Storms. Her information is in the membership

directory.

August Craft Circles

Bring your hand crafting and join Rev. Ian for a time of crafting and connection! Knitting, crochet, embroidery, origami, sketching, doodling, beadwork, and more! All are welcome to bring their small crafting project and join Rev. Ian on **Monday, August 16**, or **Tuesday, August 31**, from **1pm to 3pm** at the church. There will be cool drinks and sweet treats and we'll hang out crafting and connecting. Or you can join us on **Monday, August 23 from 1pm to 3pm on Zoom**. Come to one, come to all three!! At the church we'll follow the UUCOD Covid protocols and ask that only those vaccinated join us. Bring a mask, too, please, just in case. To sign up or ask any questions, please contact Rev. Ian.

Sunday Sanctuary Flowers

When we return to Sunday mornings together we want our space to be beautiful and welcoming. So, we'd love to have volunteers sharing flowers in our Sanctuary each Sunday. If you'd be interested in volunteering to bring flowers on a Sunday in September (12, 19, 26) or October (3, 10, 17, 24, 31), please contact Rev. Ian.

Pacific Southwest District of the UUA (PSWD) Special Business Meeting

The **Pacific Southwest District of the UUA (PSWD)** announces a special business meeting from 10-11am PT on **Saturday, August 21**. Please see below for the **agenda**. For more information and details on registration visit: www.pswduua.org.

10:00-10:05 Opening & Welcome
10:05-10:10 Establish Quorum
10:10-10:15 Approve Minutes from April Business Meeting
10:15-10:30 PSWD Proposed Dissolution Update
10:30-10:55 PSWD Bylaw Amendment Discussion and Vote
10:55-11:00 Closing

If you have additional questions or if you would like to be a delegate to this meeting please contact Linda Savard. Her contact information is in the directory. Our congregation can have up to 4 delegates.

2021 UUCOD AUCTION NOTES

SAVE THESE DATES!!!

Friday, Nov. 5 - IN PERSON SILENT AUCTION 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 6 - LIVE ZOOM AUCTION 5:45 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

UUA PRESIDENT'S REPORT AT THE 2021 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray's report at the June 2021 General Assembly was outstanding in explaining the UUA priorities for this coming year, what our realities are in this pandemic

and post pandemic time, implementation of recommendations from the Commission on Institutional Change (Widening the Circle of Concern), and UUA intentions for social justice.

Her report is too long to put in this newsletter; however, there is a link to it from the UUA Website. It is exceptional in clarity and recommendations. You are all encouraged read the entire report.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

AUGUST SHARE THE PLATE

EcoMedia Compass is Our August 15th Share the Plate

Founded in 2011, The EcoMedia Compass, is a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing environmental awareness and solutions through music, art and events. Targeting the Salton Sea, its current campaign, *Save Our Sea!*, aims to work with other community groups, volunteers, and agencies to restore the Salton Sea by implementing the support of the entire region, providing jobs, a healthy environment and sustainability for our future generations. The prime goal of the organization is to creatively and effectively share and implement scientific and environmental solutions while developing community involvement through music, art and film. The EcoMedia Compass' Executive Director Kerry Morrison will be our Guest Worship Leader during this special service. Drawing from Salton Sea experiences, he will discuss the interconnectedness we all share with each other and the natural world, which is our seventh principle. On Sunday, August 15th please open your hearts and wallets to The EcoMedia Compass and give as generously as you are able.

BOARD NOTES

Notes from the July 21, 2021 UUCOD Board of Directors Meeting

Gratitude was extended to: Steve Kerr and Rod Belshee for their audio-visual work in the sanctuary; to Chris Eager for all of his work on getting pledges for retiring the mortgage; and to Hiroshi Yamaguchi for responding to an accidental setting off of the church alarm.

Rod Belshee has stepped down from chairing the Facilities Committee. We need a new committee chair. Please consider chairing the committee. Rod will help the new chair get started. The committee is looking for someone to handle the planning and organizing of work around the church. You do not need to be handy. We currently replaced a broken thermostat in the sanctuary.

The following proposals were approved by the board:

- Rev. Ian will use part of his salary for a housing allowance
- Cement paths, benches and pavers were approved to be added to the Celebration Garden and Garden of Hope. Sacred Grounds has the funds to complete this project
- The development of a new website was approved along with the \$1200 needed to get the website updated
- The Congregation's participation in Beloved Conversations, Among was approved contingent on Finance approving the \$3000.00 registration fee

Our current indoor protocols were reviewed and kept as previously approved, except worship services were added to the existing protocols. The building continues to be closed

to the public. However, we are open to UUCOD and those organizations affiliated with us for fully vaccinated members.

The board also discussed the formation of a group to explore updating the decor in the foyer of the church. We decided to ask facilities and the Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging Ministry to work on this project. We also discussed the possibility of accepting another outdoor sculpture. We decided to wait on that until we have the other outdoor projects completed.

Later in the year the board will update its ability to use google drive for the archiving of documents across all aspects of church life.

A copy of the full board minutes will be posted on the website after they are approved at the September board meeting. The board is not meeting in August. However, please feel free to reach out the Linda Savard, Board President or Rev. Ian Riddell, Lead Minister if you have any questions or concerns between now and Sept. 21st. Our phone numbers are in the directory.

NEWS FROM THE CARE TEAM

Friends,

I hope you have gotten your Covid-19 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.

Ros Hoover

Office Administrator Hours: Pam's new hours beginning August 16th:

Monday-Wednesday: 9:30 am - 2:00 pm

Thursday: 9:30 am - 2:30 pm

Friday: 9:30 am - 3:00 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 Pam at admin@uucod.org asking to reserve space. The newsletter needs to be on the website by 3 pm, Fridays.

[Newsletter Calendar](#)

[Visit our website](#)

"It isn't love that makes the world go round
but compassion – starting over in gentleness
when love hasn't been enough or other factors have failed:
a gentle refusal to blame oneself or others
and just begin again." ~ Nancy Shaffer (Unitarian Universalist, clergy)

