



UUCOD MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2021



MINISTER'S MESSAGE Bread not Stone: Beloved



Last month I shared from the pulpit my conviction that the values that we share and express as Unitarian Universalists call us to do the work of love, justice, and inclusion. For me, this is not just the work of one sermon or worship service but our daily lives.

Last year, your ministers and many congregants participated in the Beloved Conversations Within program offered through Meadville Lombard Theological School. This program focused on opening our hearts and minds, examining our individual stumbling blocks and hopes. The leaders of the program share that "it is a program for Unitarian Universalists seeking to embody racial justice as a spiritual practice. In Beloved Conversations, we are here to heal the impact of racism on our lives, in order to get free together."

Those of us involved found the program to be transformative and powerful and challenging.

This year, a group who were involved last year will be working with the next stage, broadening the internal work to focus on our religious communities. Beloved Conversations Among begins this fall. We will be working with a coach who will lead us to look at the breadth and depth of our congregational life: How are we together? How do we do the work of the congregation in ways that are inspiring of inclusion, belonging, and

diversity.

On November 14, I will be leading a worship service focused on this year's work in this area. You will certainly hear more from the group as the year goes along and I hope you will get engaged in this transformative work as it comes up. It is our own hearts and minds we are growing along with our congregation's thriving.

in peace and love
Rev. Ian

SERVICES



October 31, 2021

Honoring our Ancestors

Worship Leaders: Peter Mathews and Josette Pacino

Join us as we share reflections on ancestors and how they live on in our lives, rituals, and traditions.

November 7, 2021

Our Pride Should be a Promise

Worship Leader: Rev. Ian W. Riddell

Worship Associate: Joni Paddock

All of us, and especially those of us part of the LGBTQI+ communities have much to be grateful for and proud of as we see the changes in our world over the past years. But our work is not done. How can we imagine together the needs of today's world? Whose pride—and safety and dignity—are we called to struggle for today?

November 14, 2021

Work of Justice, Change, and Love II: Beloved Conversations Among

Worship Leader: Rev. Ian W. Riddell

Worship Associate: Peter Mathews

We continue our exploration of the work of inclusion, belonging, and diversity we are doing in our community. This week join us for an introduction to the Beloved Conversations learning that many of our members have been doing and that our congregation will be exploring in this coming year.

November 21, 2021

Thanksgiving: If You Have a Table Blessing

Worship Leader: Rev. Ian W. Riddell

Worship Associate: Bob Rancourt

As we prepare ourselves for gathering around a table in thanks, what is in our minds and hearts. Who do we carry with us as we feast and offer gratitude?

November 28, 2021

The Earthiness of the Buddha-Dharma

Worship Leader: Ian Challis

Worship Associate: Peter Mathews

One of the most beautiful aspects of Buddhist teaching is the way we are invited to remember our deep interconnection to the planet and all life -- to honor and care for Earth as our source, great teacher, and witness. Growth and freedom arise from deep knowing of this earthly experience.

Covid-19 Update

As of October 31, 2021 you **must** show proof of vaccination to attend Sunday Services. Please click on the link below for the latest information on the UUCOD Covid protocols for attending Sunday Services:

[Updated Covid Protocols for Sunday Service](#)



Communication with the Tech Team During Services

To communicate with the Tech Team during the service, please use private chat to AV Tech Monitor. We will not be able to respond or answer questions live but it will be helpful for us to know if there are issues in the stream.

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

We love this time of the year in the desert. It's November! It has cooled down and we are excited about new possibilities. We have the auction to look forward to. Chalice Circles have begun and there are new opportunities for us to grow and learn. We also have new people joining us! How wonderful. They will bring new ideas and energy to our community. Let's welcome them with open arms.

Mary Hunter Austin wrote, "This is the sense of the desert hills, that there is room enough and time enough". Room enough and time enough for what? That's a question we can each ask ourselves as we open our hearts to new ideas and ways of being together. Let us see the possibilities and not the struggles of change. May we make the room we need and take the time we need to be transformed.

In Peace,
Linda Savard
President of the Board of Directors of UUCOD

MONTHLY CALENDAR

Sunday, October 31

10:00 am-Worship Service

11:00 am-Sunday Together

Monday, November 1

8:00 am-Work Party

5:15 pm-Monday Meditation

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

Monday, November 15

8:00 am-Work Party

5:15 pm-Monday Meditation

Tuesday, November 16

5:00 pm-Board of Directors

Meeting-**Zoom**

Tuesday, November 2

9:30 am-DIBM Meeting-**Zoom**

5:00 pm-Special Board Meeting: Sunday
Service Protocols-**Zoom**

Wednesday, November 3

4:30pm Worship Meeting-**Zoom**

6:30 pm-Facilities Meeting-**Zoom**

Thursday, November 4

2:00 pm-Stewardship Committee-**Zoom**

Friday, November 5

8:00 am-Men's Breakfast

10:00 am-Silent Auction

Saturday, November 6

5:45pm-Live Auction **Zoom**

Sunday, November 7

10:00 am-Worship Service-**In Person &
Zoom**

11:00 am-Sunday Together-**Zoom**

Monday, November 8

8:00 am-Work Party

5:15 pm-Monday Meditation

Tuesday, November 9

2:00pm Chalice Circle Facilitators
Meeting-**Zoom**

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

Wednesday, November 10

Thursday, November 11

6:30 pm-Social Justice Meeting-**Zoom**

7:00 pm-S2S2S Rehearsal

Friday, November 12

10:30 am-Life Span Spiritual Group

Saturday, November 13

9:00 am-Second Saturday Stroll

Sunday, November 14

10:00 am-Worship Service

Wednesday, November 17

1:30pm-Chalice Circle

4:30 pm-BIOPOC-**Zoom**

Thursday, November 18

8:00 am-Grief Labyrinth Walk

7:00 pm-S2S2S Rehearsal

Friday, November 19

1:00 pm-Chalice Circle **Zoom**

Saturday, November 20

Sunday, November 21

10:00 am-Worship Service

10:00 am-Share the Plate

11:00 am-Sunday Together

2:00pm-Chalice Circle

Monday, November 22

8:00 am-Work Party

12:00pm-Newsletter Articles Due

5:15 pm-Monday Meditation

Tuesday, November 23

4:30 pm-Worship Meeting-**Zoom**

Wednesday, November 24

Thursday, November 25

Happy Thanksgiving!!

Friday, November 26

Office Closed

Saturday, November 27

Sunday, November 28

10:00 am-Worship Service

11:00 am-Sunday Together

Monday, November 29

8:00 am-Work Party

1:00 pm-Life Span Class

5:15 pm-Monday Meditation

Tuesday, November 30

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Plate Collections for October 24, 2021: \$182.91

Special Board Meeting on November 2nd at 5:00 pm

Please join for a Special Board Meeting on Tuesday, November 2nd at 5:00pm on Zoom. We will be discussing Sunday Service Covid Protocols and your input is needed and appreciated. Our goal is to keep everyone safe and well.



Awakening to the Grace in Aging Facilitated by Peter Mathews and Bryna Blum

Tuesdays, 10 am to Noon,
November 2, 9, 16, 23

Recommended Reading:
The Grace in Aging: Awaken as You Grow Older
by Kathleen Dowling Singh

Registration Limit: 20 participants

This potentially transformative workshop will take place on Zoom. They will be invited to share their insights on the advantages of aging, on their challenges and solutions regarding aging, and on their plans to acquire additional spiritual growth in the future. Participants will reflect on their experiences which arose from reading the recommended text.



Last Week to Sign Up for Pride Parade

A generous UUCOD benefactor has gifted us with breathable KN95 masks that protect both the wearer & others and silky Rainbow Pride masks to wear over them.

Now you will be able to double mask when you walk! You will also have the option of carrying our UUCOD Banner or small pride flags, & handing out our rainbow bookmarks.

Date: Nov. 7th
Time: 10am - noon
Parade Length: 1 mile starting at Palm Canyon at Tachevah
& walking south to Tahquitz Canyon

For more information & to sign up, click this link:

[Parade Sign Up](#)

A Message from Rev. Ian

I will be away on vacation starting Sunday, October 24, and will return to the office on Monday, November 1. For pastoral issues while I am away, please reach out to our Care Team or to Rev. Don Stouder. For other issues, please contact Pam Bibb in the office and she will help you talk to the right person. Have a wonderful week!



Don't Forget!!

Daylight Savings time ends on November 7th be sure to "fall back" one hour!



December Newsletter Reminder

It's hard to believe that next month is December! Just a quick reminder that I will need your December Newsletter articles by 10:00am on November 22nd. The monthly newsletter takes more time to build and it is a short week with Thanksgiving on 11/25. I will be scheduling the December Newsletter on 11/24 to be emailed on 11/26. Just a note that I will be out of the office on 11/26 so it is important to get me those articles on time!

Thanks so much,
Pam Bibb

2021 AUCTION UPDATES

PADDLES
UP!

'Best Bid' Silent Auction (at UUCOD) Friday, November 5 from 10 am- 4 pm

Live Zoom Auction Saturday, November 6 from 5:45 pm - 8:30 pm

Remember to pick up your auction packets on Saturday, October 30th from 12:00pm-2:00pm in the UUCOD parking lot, on October 31st after church services at UUCOD or Monday, November 1st through Thursday, November 4th at UUCOD during office hours (10:00am-1:30pm). You may also drop off donated auction items at that time. Email Carol Lavoie if these times do not work for you.

Last Chance to RSVP for the 2021 Auction!

Join Us for this Fun Event



You must register in order to bid on any of the 85+ items listed below. It is easy and FREE.

Auction registrants will receive an Auction Packet approximately a week prior to the auction. Included in packet will be a bidding paddle, the auction item list and easy-to-follow instructions.

If you are local please respond by 11/1

[Live Auction List](#)

[Silent Auction List](#)

LIFE SPAN SPIRITUAL GROWTH



Lectio Divina: Contemplative Practices Facilitated by Rev Ian

Mon. Nov. 29, 1 - 3 p.m. in person
and/or 7 - 9 p.m. on Zoom

Lectio Divina is the practice of reading scripture or other texts contemplatively in ways that offer discernment and perspective. We'll explore the history and method of this ancient practice and find ways to explore a variety of texts. This is the first of three offerings this year by Rev. Ian on different spiritual practices.

Contemplative spiritual practices help us build space in our hearts and minds and offer us new ways to see ourselves and the world.

SOCIAL JUSTICE



Food (and Now Clothing) on the First is Sunday, Nov. 7th

Bring your food & clothing to church for Galilee Center. They will distribute it to seniors & families in need in the Mecca area, and migrant farmworkers & asylum applicants staying at the overnight shelter.

NON-EXPIRED FOOD NEEDED

corn masa flour like Maseca or Tortimasa
bagged rice & dried pinto beans
dry spaghetti & small pasta
vegetable, canola, & corn oil
canned chicken & tuna

jars of peanut butter & jelly or jam
canned fruits & vegetables
jars & cans of tomato sauce & pasta sauce

CLOTHING REALLY NEEDED NOW

children's clothing - sizes 2T - 14
boys' & mens' pants & shirts - all sizes
other items are welcome

On Nov. 7th, bring your donations to the church parking lot
& put them in the open car trunk with the Food on the First sign.

Can't make it to church on Sundays?

Bring them to the church M-F when it is open & put them in the *Food on the First* bin in the lobby.

Thanks!

**November's Share the Plate to Benefit Holiday Gift Drive
for SafeHouse of the Desert & Harrison House**

Once again, we will soon Share the Plate with one of our favorite local organizations: SafeHouse of the Desert. Like last year, due to continuing Coronavirus restrictions, we will not be able to deliver our presents in person, but that won't prevent the youth & young adults from getting them. On Sunday, November 21, instead of buying their requested items, your generous Share the Plate donation will be used to purchase Target e-gift cards from our Scrip program, which they will use to buy their own presents.

Safehouse of the Desert, part of Operation SafeHouse, which has been doing its important work in our county for more than three decades, is a life-saving shelter for youth ages 11 to 17 who have run away from home or whose parents no longer want them there. One national runaway organization estimates that there are more than two million young people who run away annually! Some have been victims of human trafficking, especially in recent years, and have no place to go once they are picked up by police.

SafeHouse operates two shelters, one in Riverside and the other here, that provide approximately 600 runaway, homeless, and at-risk youth with over 4,000 bed nights annually. Harrison House is transitional housing for young adults 18 to 21 years of age, some who have "aged out" of the foster care system and have limited ability and resources to live on their own. Besides housing, it also provides on-site schooling, including GED classes, individual cognitive behavioral therapy, group counseling, financial education, employment assistance, and life skills. SafeHouse's transitional living programs serve approximately 40 youth and their children (yes—*their children*) annually.

Your donation will provide a happier holiday for these youth and young adults who have literally nowhere to go and need everything. Please give as generously as you are able. For more information, please contact Bob Rancourt.



**COACHELLA VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT'S
MIGRANT EDUCATION PROGRAM'S CHRISTMAS PARTY
FOOD BASKET & TOY DRIVE**

The Social Justice Committee is thrilled to announce that UUCOD will be participating in CVUSD's Migrant Education Program's Christmas Party Food Basket & Toy Drive. This much-loved program helps our migrant families who live in the East Valley have a more joyful Christmas. *Due to Coronavirus and the need to practice social distancing, migrant families will have a Caravan Christmas Party. Plated dinners, a box of food and toys for the children will be given to each family member in their car upon their*

Toy Drive:

For the Toy Drive, instead of purchasing toys and bringing them to UUCOD, we will be collecting donations electronically via a toy drive donations button, much like the weekly Virtual Offering Basket for Sunday Services. The total funds collected will be converted into a Scrip e-gift card and emailed to the Migrant Education Program. They will then shop for toys, which will be handed out to each child and youth when they drive up. Currently, there are 1,650 migrant children & youth in kindergarten through grade 12 within CVUSD. For most of them, if it wasn't for our generosity, they would simply not receive anything at Christmas.

Toy Drive Donations

Food Basket Drive

Each day in November until Thanksgiving, please add the unexpired item listed to a box. On December 3, bring the completely filled box to UUCOD between 3-6 pm. A Lowe's small packing box is perfect and only costs \$1.10.

We'll deliver it to CVUSD's Migrant Education Program before their Christmas Party. Email Joni Paddock for details & to sign up.

- November 1 - Box of Cereal
- November 2 - Peanut Butter
- November 3 - Cooking Oils (corn, canola, vegetable)
- November 4 - Flour (corn-masa harina or all-purpose flour)
- November 5 - Macaroni & Cheese
- November 6 - Canned Fruit
- November 7 - Canned Tomato Sauce/Paste
- November 8 - Canned Tuna
- November 9 - Dessert Mix (ex: brownie mixes & already-made pudding cups)
- November 10 - Jar of Applesauce
- November 11 - Canned Sweet Potatoes
- November 12 - Dried Herbs/Spices (cinnamon, oregano, bay leaves, salt, sugar)
- November 13 - Bag of Beans (beans, lentils)
- November 14 - Box of Crackers
- November 15 - Package of Rice
- November 16 - Package of Oatmeal
- November 17 - Package Pasta
- November 18 - Spaghetti Sauce
- November 19 - Chicken Noodle Soup
- November 20 - Canned/Powdered Milk (evaporated, condensed, & powdered)
- November 21 - Can Corn
- November 22 - Can Mixed Vegetables
- November 23 - Can Carrots
- November 24 - Can Green Beans
- November 25 - Canned Chiles (jalapenos in vinegar sauce)

If you would rather someone from our team assemble and fill the box for you, please contact Joni Paddock. *The cost of a box filled with all the items is \$55.*

Food Drive Donations



What is "Care?"

It is looking out for the others in your community, whose health is a matter of great importance.

This is why ONLY members and friends may attend services in the sanctuary on Sundays until further notice.

Come if you are vaccinated (you must show proof of vaccination before entering the building) and if you are willing to stay masked while indoors in seats where we are all socially distanced from one another.

Those are the rules for now....because we CARE about our UU family.

Bryna Blum
Care Team Chair

Staying Connected

Sunday Service: Sunday, October 31 @ 10:00 am

Sunday Together: Sunday, October 31 @ 11:00 am -12:00 pm

Work Party: Monday, November 1 @ 8:00 am

Monday Meditation: Monday, November 1 @ 5:15 pm **In Person with masks**

Care Team: Monday, November 1 @ 6:30 pm

DIBM Meeting: Tuesday, November 2 @ 9:30 am

Special Board Meeting: Tuesday, November 2 @ 5:00pm

Worship Meeting: Wednesday, November 3 @ 4:30

Facilities Meeting: Wednesday, November 3 @ 6:30

Stewardship Committee Meeting: Thursday, November 4 @ 2:00 pm

Men's Breakfast: Friday, November 5 @ 8:00am **In Person**

Silent Auction: Friday, November 5 @ 10:00am

Live Auction: Saturday, November 6 @ 5:45pm

SAVE THE DATE!

Information on the UU Regional Assembly February 4-6, 2022

Save the dates: *Reflect, Rejoice, Renew*, PWR Assembly, Friday, February 4 through Sunday February 6, 2022. This is a Regional Assembly held virtually and on site in San Diego, CA. More information to come on this great opportunity to participate in our Regional Assembly.

Script2Stage2Screen 2021-22 Season

Script2Stage2Screen's Executive Committee, directors, actors and fans are excited that the group will return to UUCOD for its 2021-22



season. "It has been so long...and we're so appreciative of our partnership with the Church for more than 10 years," said Dori Smith, an S2S2S Executive Committee member.

Here is the planned 2021-22 season:

Dec. 3-4, 2021: "Crying on Trains," by David Hanson. A heartfelt story of courage, sacrifice, true friendship and love.

Jan. 21-22, 2022: "I'm Not Rick Springfield," by Vicki Vodrey. A bag of laughs driven by hero worship, mistaken identity and family dysfunction.

February 25-26, 2022: "A Night in Puglia," by David M. Wolgin. A love story for the ages and all orientations. Sensual and sweet, and set in Italy.

April 22-23, 2022: "Inez's Birthday...and Then Some," by Jason Hull. A family curse, a pompous minister, a gay nephew, a redneck brother, a case of gout, and Loretta Lynn. What could possibly go wrong?

Welcome Spring 2021 New Members!



Hello to ALL!!

So now that we have been back in our Sanctuary for in person services for a few weeks, I would like to remind and again congratulate our March 2021 New Members listed below. Even though we had not been together for over a year, these folks stepped up and said they wanted to be part of our loving and growing community. Say hello when you see them and here's to the Future!

Michael Allen
Julia Alberg-Burbank
Tom Burbank
Gloria Kapp
Margaret Manson
Sandy Sladen
Steve Toporoff

Office Administrator Hours:

Monday-Thursday 9:15 am - 2:00 pm

Friday: 9:30 am - 2:30 pm

(There are times Pam 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 before 12:00pm**. If you are going to be late, call or email Pam at admin@uucod.org asking to reserve space. The newsletter will be on the website by Friday at 3:00pm.

Newsletter Calendar



"Wear gratitude like a cloak, and it will feed every corner of your life."

~Rumi

[Visit our website](#)

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Desert
72425 Via Vail - Rancho Mirage CA 92270 - (760) 321-0694

