

November 19th, 2021

## UUCOD WEEKLY REMINDER

*Happy  
Thanksgiving*

A decorative flourish in a light red color, featuring stylized leaves and a central circular motif, positioned to the right of the word 'Happy'.

### SERVICES (In-Person and via Zoom)

#### Worship Service/Sunday Together

**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.

#### COLLECTIONS BASKET

**Covid-19 Update Sunday Services**

Good news!

The board has decided to open Sunday Services up to fully vaccinated visitors. All of our protocols are still in place for all of those who decide to attend in person services. Let's keep everyone safe!

To attend:

- Everyone must show proof of full vaccination once.
- Everyone must wear a mask at all times when indoors.
- We ask you to please observe social distancing when indoors.
- No singing or coffee hour at this time.
- Please exit the building after services and enjoy socializing outdoors.
- Please attend on Zoom if you are sick.
- Please either wait two weeks to return to in-person service or receive a negative Covid test after you have been in a potentially higher-risk situation. Some examples include travel by plane, train or ship and/or being in a large (500+) indoor setting where vaccination status is unknown. We encourage you to use good judgment to help ensure the health of our congregation.

Remember zoom services are available for everyone.

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## CALENDAR

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### Meetings

**Sunday Worship Service:** Sunday, November 21 @ 10:00am In Person & Zoom

**Share the Plate:** Sunday, November 21 @ 10:00am

**Sunday Together:** Sunday, November 21 @ 11:00am - 12:00pm

**Chalice Circle:** Sunday, November 21 @ 2:00pm

**Work Party:** Monday, November 22 @ 9:00am - 10:00am

**Monday Meditation:** Monday, November 22 @ 5:30pm - 6:30pm In Person with masks

**Awakening to the Grace in Aging:** Tuesday, November 23 @ 10:00am

**Worship Committee:** Tuesday, November 23 @ 4:30pm-6:30pm

**Happy Thanksgiving!**

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Collections for November 14, 2021: \$342.16**

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**13 Members of UUCOD Celebrate Love at Palm Springs Pride Parade**



L - R: Roger Beaman, Chris Eager, Stephen Dopp, Gloria Kapp, Reuben Gallardo, Bob Rancourt, Susan Hannon, Hiroshi Yamaguchi, Diane Carmony, Vikki Porter, Peter Mathews, Evelyn Kain, & Carol McDaniel

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## AUCTION UPDATE

If you have not received or you misplaced your invoice for the items you won at the auction, please email Pam and she will email you a copy of your invoice. You can also come into the office during office hours and get a hard copy of your invoice. Please be sure to mail your payment to the PO Box or bring it in to Pam when you pick up your auction items. Once you have paid your bill please come to the church and pick up your items.

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## Sunday Sanctuary Flowers

We want our space to be beautiful and welcoming during Sunday Services. 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, please sign up in foyer or let Rev. Ian know.

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## WOMEN'S NITE OUT IS BACK!

Monday, Dec 13th at 6pm we have reservations on the patio at Burgers n Beer- just East of UUCOD.

Sheryl Eaton is organizing the December dinner & Joni Paddock will organize the January dinner. We are asking that each person take a month, pick the restaurant & send out the email invite.

For more information contact Sheryl Eaton. Please RSVP by December 10th so the restaurant knows how many people will be there. We look forward to seeing you on December 13th.

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## Our Cup Runneth Over!

It has come to our attention that we are packing so much wonderful

information into our UUCOD Monthly and Weekly newsletters that some email programs like Gmail are not showing the newsletter all the way to the bottom. If you don't see info about Pam's office hours at the bottom of the newsletter display, look for a blue link to click to display entire message so that you won't miss Lifespan Learning, Social Justice and other articles that sometimes get caught "below the fold." Lots of people at UUCOD are doing great things they want you to know about, so please read our newsletters all the way to the end!

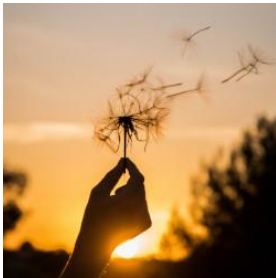


Just a quick reminder that I will need your December Newsletter articles by **10:00am on Monday, November 22nd**. I will be scheduling the December Newsletter on 11/24 to be emailed on 11/26. Just a note that I will be out of town after 11/24 so it is important to get me those articles on time. Feel free to send articles in early if you have them ready.

Thanks so much!

P.S.: During this season of gratitude I just want to say how thankful I am to be a small part of this wonderfully kind and generous community.

## LIFE SPAN SPIRITUAL GROWTH



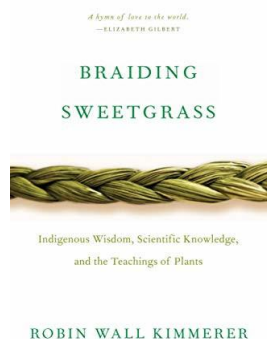
### Awakening to the Grace in Aging Facilitated by Peter Mathews and Bryna Blum

Tuesdays, 10 am to Noon,  
November 16th, 23rd and 30th at Church 10:00am-12:00pm

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 at the Church. Participants 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. Please contact Peter Mathews or Bryna Blum if you are interested in participating.



### Lifespan Book Club Discussion

Braiding Sweetgrass  
By Robin Wall Kimmerer

Join us in a discussion on  
Tuesday, November 30 @ 1:00pm-2:30pm  
Via Zoom

Drawing on her life as an indigenous scientist, and as a woman, Kimmerer shows how other living beings—asters and goldenrod, strawberries and squash,

salamanders, algae, and sweetgrass—offer us gifts and lessons, even if we've forgotten how to hear their voices. In reflections that range from the creation of Turtle Island to the forces that threaten its flourishing today, she circles toward a central argument: that the awakening of ecological consciousness requires the acknowledgment and celebration of our reciprocal relationship with the rest of the living world. For only when we can hear the languages of other beings will we be capable of understanding the generosity of the earth, and learn to give our own gifts in return.

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### **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.*

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## **SOCIAL JUSTICE UPDATES**

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### **November's Share the Plate Holiday Gift Drive to Benefit 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.

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## 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 arrival at the Migrant Education Center.



### 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. Please note that the last day to donate is November 26th.

### Toy Drive Donations



### FOOD BASKETS

### 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](mailto:Joni.Paddock@cvusd.net) for details & to sign up.

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.* Please note that the last day to donate is November 26th.

- 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

Food Drive Donations



**SUPPORT VOTING RIGHTS LEGISLATION  
CONTACT CONGRESS NOW!**

Critical votes continue in the House and the Senate ---email, phone or write your Representative in the House and your US Senators to express support for the Voting Rights Act and all legislation to assure voting rights to every US Citizen.

President Biden, in a recent speech, expressed the grave concern of his administration on this issue:

*"This is no longer a struggle of just who gets to vote or making it easier for eligible people to vote. It's about who gets to count the votes, or whether they should count at all. Jim Crow in the 21st century is now a sinister combination of voter suppression and election subversion."*

The House has already passed a bill. Several votes have already occurred on this legislation in the Senate. It will continue to come up for votes. Sharing your support with your senators is important both to assure those voting in favor of the legislation that we support them and to encourage those who currently oppose the legislation to support it.

**Script2Stage2Screen Updates**

**SCRIPT2STAGE2SCREEN PRESENTS THE NEW DRAMA  
"CRYING ON TRAINS" IN DECEMBER**

Script2Stage2Screen, which reopened on October 23 to a full house, will present its second performance of the season on Dec. 3 and 4, 2021.

"Crying on Trains," by David Hanson of New Jersey.

"Our next show is about living, loving and coping with life's challenges," said Steve Fisher, Script2Stage2Screen's artistic director. "Two unlikely companions travel life's tough, yet rewarding, journey together. We're proud to have Chet Cole directing the play. He is an experienced actor and director, who also happens to be an award-winning teacher."

Fisher also said: "I want to send a special 'thank you' to all patrons who have responded to our COVID precautions without a complaint. We have done our best to create a safe environment for everyone and will continue to do so."

Script2Stage2Screen is the performing arts project of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Desert (UUCOD), 72425 Via Vail in Rancho Mirage. All staged readings take place at UUCOD at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10.

**COVID PREVENTION POLICIES**

Script2Stage2Screen is following the Church's policies on preventing the spread of COVID.

Script2Stage2Screen:

1. Is requiring proof of **full** vaccination to attend its performances. All cast and crew will be fully vaccinated, and wear masks except when acting.
2. Is asking patrons to register in advance and provide contact information, in order to perform contact tracing if needed.
3. Is requiring attendees to wear masks.
4. Is setting up seating to allow social distancing.
5. Is requiring ticket purchases or RSVPs in advance ([www.script2stage2screen.com](http://www.script2stage2screen.com)).
6. Is offering refreshments outdoors in front of the church; to be consumed outside.

The remainder of the group's season:

"I'm Not Rick Springfield," a comedy by Vicki Vodrey (Kansas), to be performed Friday and Saturday, Jan. 21 and 22, 2022.

"A Night in Puglia," a drama by David M. Wolgin (Rancho Mirage), to be performed Friday and Saturday, February 25 and 26, 2022.

"Inez's Birthday...and Then Some," a comedy by Jason Hull (Palm Springs), to be performed Friday and Saturday, April 22 and 23, 2022.

Script2Stage2Screen is an innovative performing arts organization for the development of original productions on the stage. Formed in 2010 by a small group of playwrights, S2S2S started as a vehicle to premiere original plays. Since then, it has developed into a diverse performing arts organization in the Coachella Valley with the mission of highlighting social justice, families, sexual equality, the dignity of humankind, and the joy and humor of life. [www.script2stage2screen.com](http://www.script2stage2screen.com)

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## NEWS FROM THE CARE TEAM

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### What is "Caring?"

It is looking out for the others in your community,

Please step up to support the Care Team. It needs "Kitchen Angels" (Cooks and bakers) and those willing to drive when needed.

If that might be a fit for you, please contact me at the number below.

Bryna Blum

Care Team Chair

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### Save The Dates for the UU Regional Assembly

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 in the D this great opportunity to participate in our Regional Assembly.

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### Office Administrator News

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#### Pam's Hours:

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



Friday: 9:30 am - 2:30 pm

(Please note Pam may be on errands during office hours so please call 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, please call or email Pam asking to reserve space. The newsletter will be posted on the website by 3pm on Friday.

If you have information you would like included in the printed version of announcements that are included with the printed version of the Order of Worship please send the information you would like included to Pam on Tuesdays by 12:00pm. Space is limited so submit your information as soon as possible.



“For me, every hour is grace. And I feel gratitude in my heart each time I can meet someone and look at his or her smile.”

~Elie Wiesel~

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[Visit our website](#)

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**Unitarian Universalist Church of the Desert**  
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