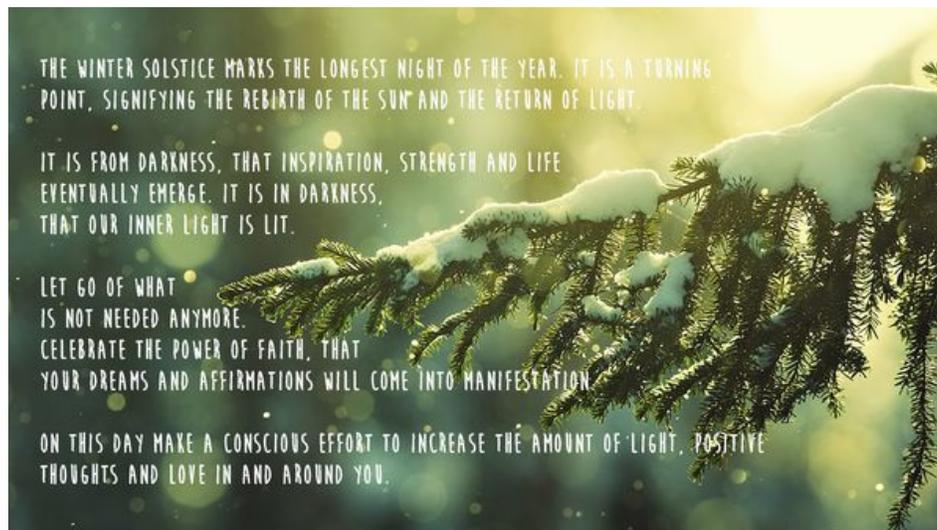


# UUCOD WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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## DECEMBER 17th, 2021



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## SERVICES

### Worship Service/Sunday Together

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**December 19, 2021**

**Winter Solstice: The Returning Light**

**Worship Leader:** Rev. Ian W. Riddell

**Worship Associate:** Josette Pacino

The Winter Solstice brings us the longest night and the shortest day, a time when humans throughout history and cultures have pondered the balance of light and dark in their lives. Join us as we explore nurturing of darkness and the inspiration of light.

**December 24, 2021**

**Christmas Eve: What Child is This?**

**Worship Leader:** Rev. Ian W. Riddell

**Worship Associate:** Bryna Blum

Mary and Joseph had no idea who their child would become in his life. As we celebrate with stories and music we ponder how we are ready for the arrival of new life.

**December 26, 2021**

***"Come Sing a Song with Me: A Sunday of Favorite Hymns"***

**Worship Leader:** Sarita Gonzales

**Worship Associate:** Betty Bender

Join your fellow UUCOD congregants as we share some of our favorite hymns that helped to ground us in our faith and values. Select members will share stories of their favorite hymns and why they are so special to them. If you're attending the service from home feel free to sing along and for those in the sanctuary, let's hum together.

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Collections Basket

## Improvements to In-Person Service Capacity



The Covid Response Team is happy to announce that we are working to increase the capacity for those who wish to attend in-person services. We plan to offer seating in the main sanctuary with seating spaced at 4 feet apart and in the community room with seating spaced at 6 feet apart. We estimate that this will allow for 55 people in the main sanctuary and 25 people in the community room. Everyone will then be invited to congregate outside and visit with one another after the service has concluded.

Proof of vaccination and masks will still be required in the building.

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## Staying Connected

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**Sunday Service:** Sunday, December 19 @ 10:00am

**Share the Plate:** Sunday, December 19 @ 10:00am

**Sunday Together:** Sunday, December 19 @ 11:00am

**Chalice Circle:** Sunday, December 19 @ 2:00pm

**DOS Choir Practice:** Sunday December 19 @ 2:00pm

**Work Party:** Monday, December 20 @ 9:00am

**Gathering in a Quiet Community:** Monday, December 20 @ 1:00pm

**Monday Meditation:** Monday, December 20 @ 5:15pm

**Board of Directors Meeting:** Tuesday, December 21 @ 5:00pm

**Gathering in a Quiet Community:** Wednesday, December 22 @ 1:00pm via Zoom

**Christmas Eve Service:** Friday, December 24 @ 5:00pm

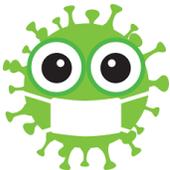
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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**Plate Collections for December 12th, 2021: \$196.28**

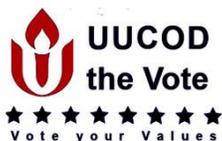
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### Update from the Covid Response Team

The UUCOD Covid Response Team continues to consider how and when to resume some of our former activities with the recent introduction of the Omicron variant. With increased Sunday attendance, the Sanctuary chairs are now spaced 3-4 feet apart, while the Overflow area in the community room provides 6-foot spacing. We are discussing how and when to resume the coffee hour, and how and when to incorporate more music into the worship service, particularly once we have a Choir Director. We will continue to monitor new information about Omicron and develop plans to balance our congregational connectedness and safety. Please feel free to email Rod Belshee with any comments or concerns.

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## Support Build Back Better Legislation Contact Congress Now!

Critical votes continue in the House and the Senate – email, phone or write your US Senators to express support for the *Build Back Better Bill* passed by the House of Representatives and awaiting Senate action.

Build Back Better includes major investments in economic priorities - from health and child care to climate, affordable housing, labor and immigration protections and more. This is Part II of President Biden's proposals for infrastructure this year. Part I has passed both the House and the Senate and been signed by President Biden. Part II will address economic priorities----many social and economic support programs important to all Americans.

Voicing 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. In addition to contacting your own Senators (Padilla and Feinstein from California), it is important to send your comments to Senators Manchin and Sinema, two key votes required for the legislation to pass.

Use this link to find and contact your US Senators: [Senators](#)

Use this link to contact [Senator Manchin](#)

Use this link to contact [Senator Sinema](#)

Taking Action? Click Here to Let Us Know: [Action Survey](#)

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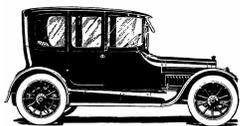


### Poinsettias for the Sanctuary

It's holiday time, so let's add some color and festivity to the sanctuary with beautiful poinsettias.

Either bring them by during the week or Sunday when you come for service.

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### Drivers Wanted

Please let us know if you are willing to drive congregants to appointments, grocery shopping or to Church on Sunday (and Christmas Eve!). The Care Team is compiling a list so that we can reach out when a congregant has a need.

It is an act of loving kindness.

Bryna Blum, Care Team Chair

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### Extra! Extra! Read all about it!

More UUCOD news than your electronic device can display at once!  
If you don't see Pam's office hours at the bottom of the newsletter,



look for a blue link at the bottom to click to display all the goodies we have to tell you about! Don't miss the news "below the fold" on activities led by Rev. Ian or by UUCOD leaders like yourselves, Lifespan Learning opportunities, book study offerings, and Social Justice news and service opportunities. Some activities are held in-person and some by Zoom. It's amazing how much our UUCOD member volunteers are up to throughout the week! Find out what's up. You may find something that piques your interest. Please read our stirring newsletters to the end end!

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### Gathering in Quiet Community

Join Rev. Ian in the Sanctuary on December 20 at 1pm or on Zoom December 22 at 1pm. We'll light our chalice, share a reading and perhaps a quiet song, and be together in a quiet, reflective community.

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### Office Schedule Reminder

Just a note that I will be out of the office on 12/24 and 12/27 to enjoy time with my family. Articles for the January Newsletter are due on or before 12/28 at 12:00pm.

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## SOCIAL JUSTICE

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### December's Share the Plate: Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest

On December 19 we will Share the Plate with Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest. With 600 Health Care Centers across the U.S, Planned Parenthood is the nation's leading provider of sex education and high quality health care for all people regardless of financial circumstances. Within our local branch of Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest there are 19 health centers in San Diego, Riverside and Imperial Counties, serving over 130,000 people. Within our Coachella Valley, there are two Planned Parenthood Family Planning Centers - one in Coachella and the other in Rancho Mirage - together serving over 15,000 men and women.

Planned Parenthood's mission is to ensure broad public access to sexual and reproductive health care in three vital ways:

- Direct Health Care Services
- Educational Services
- Political Advocacy

*Health Care* offers direct medical care, annual check ups, hormonal treatment for those in transition, contraception, etc. *Educational Services* offers over 20 different, free, age appropriate classes ranging from basic anatomy to healthy relationships. *Political Advocacy* includes national, state, and local opposition to or support for various legislative initiatives. With Roe v Wade under attack, they have continued the fight and serve as a leading advocate for sexual and reproductive rights knowing that healthcare is a basic human right!

Even in our Coachella Valley, Planned Parenthood has kept all their Health Care Centers open throughout this pandemic. They have improved upon their already-pristine protocols to make them even safer for those who choose to visit their healthcare provider in person. They have also implemented Telehealth so those who wish to be seen and treated virtually, can see and talk with their healthcare providers from their homes via a secure internet link.

Planned Parenthood needs our help and support now more than ever to continue these essential programs. All money you donate goes to help local and regional Centers, helping our neighbors.

Please donate as generously as you are able.

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## CARE TEAM NEWS

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Dear Friends,

The holidays can be difficult. Be kind of yourself and practice self care. Please reach out if you're not well, need a meal or just want someone to talk to during the holiday season.

Don't be shy. We are your Care Team and we are here for you.

Bryna Blum

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### 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:

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?

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#### **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 call first to ensure she is in the office.)

**Newsletter Deadlines:** The deadline for the Newsletter is always **Wednesday morning before noon**. If you are going to be late please call or email Pam at [admin@uucod.org](mailto:admin@uucod.org) asking to reserve space. The newsletter will be on the website by Friday at 3:00pm.

Just a note that in December I will be off 12/24 and 12/27 to enjoy time with my family.

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"The Winter Solstice is the time of ending and beginning, a powerful time – a time to contemplate your immortality. A time to forgive, to be forgiven, and to

make a fresh start. A time to awaken." ~ Frank Lenz



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***Unitarian Universalist Church of the Desert***  
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