

UUCOD WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 24th, 2021



SERVICES

Worship Service/Sunday Together

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.

Collections Basket

An Announcement from Your COVID Team



The ongoing COVID situation changes rapidly and is asking all of us to be flexible, patient, and careful. Your COVID team continues to pay attention to data and advice from experts as we make decisions.

Due to the recent upsurge in infection rates due to the Omicron variation and new state mandates for masking, we are now saying that everyone entering the UUCOD building wear a mask at all times unless you are in a room alone. This brings us in line with recent state mandates that masks be worn indoors in all public and community spaces. Our protocols for worship participation remain in place.

Remember to use caution as you're planning your activities and remember that all of our services (and many of our classes) are streamed on Zoom if you choose to stay home. Thank you for your care and flexibility as we work to keep connected while staying safe.

Staying Connected

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

Sunday Service: Sunday, December 26 @ 10:00am

Sunday Together: Sunday, December 26 @ 11:00am

ICD Meeting: Sunday December 26 @ 3:00pm

Work Party: Monday, December 27 @ 9:00am

Monday Meditation: Monday, December 27 @ 5:15pm

Worship Committee Meeting: Tuesday, December 28 @ 4:30pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS

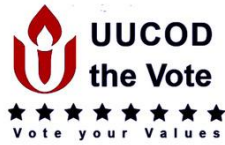
Plate Collections for December 19th, 2021: \$283.00

Share the Plate: \$434.50



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.



Thanks for Your Social Justice Activism!

Thanks to all of you who have recently made contact with your senators and representatives in Congress. Your expressions of support for legislation to protect the right to vote against voter suppression legislation in the states, and your messages of support for the “Build Back Better” package of legislation have been very important. Parents and children counting on the child tax credit expansion, coal miners counting on extension of the tax on coal operators to support black lung benefit payments, and all those who would benefit from BBB improvements to health insurance affordability, among many other important provisions in the legislation, are counting on your urging Congress to act.

As you may have seen in the news, the senators are still in negotiations on the final form of the bills, and the Senate's holiday break is looming. We will monitor developments and put an update in next week's January UUCOD newsletter to let you know what we have learned and what help is most needed from you to contact representatives about these pending bills. See you then and Happy holidays!

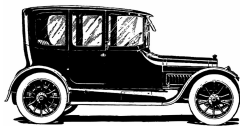


Women's Night Out Update January 10th at 6:00pm

Women's Night Out is continuing in January. This time we'll be at Back Street Bistro: 72820 El Paseo in Palm Desert. They will do separate checks since Monday is typically a slow night for them. Our reservation is for 6pm on Monday January 10. Please RSVP to Joni Paddock by email or click on the RSVP link below.

If you want to have a WNO in February, someone needs to step up to volunteer to organize it. Sheryl or Joni will assist you, if needed. All you need to do is pick a restaurant centrally located in the valley with outdoor seating, confirm they will do separate checks and send an email to Pam at the church office so she can put an article in the newsletter(s).

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

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



Office Schedule Reminder

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

CARE TEAM NEWS



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



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?

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 asking to reserve space. The newsletter will be on the website by Friday at 3:00pm.

"The rooms were very still while the pages were softly turned and the winter sunshine crept in to touch the bright heads and serious faces with a Christmas greeting."

Louisa May Alcott



[Visit our website](#)

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