

UUCOD MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

January 2022



MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Bread not Stone: Resolving to Love

It's a new year by our calendar. It's a new year by the sun and the stars and the moon. It's a time when so many of us make plans to change who we are, how we are in the world, how we are living in our bodies. We make resolutions to change our wretched, lazy lack of discipline in some area of our life and to start anew with new discipline and commitment and focus.

What if, rather than looking at ourselves and deciding that we are broken or undisciplined or unworthy we decided to know deeply that we are each and all held in a deep and powerful love that we cannot earn and that we cannot ever come to the end of. This is what my faith tells me is true about myself and my neighbor. We Unitarian Universalists affirm that each and all of us is born with worth and dignity and that we are part of a vast web of interconnection with all of life.

How might we plan differently if we started from that place? What if we asked ourselves how we are living out our deepest values in the world? in our lives? in our families and relationships? with our neighbors. What if we committed ourselves to deepen connections, to be better at choosing to act from our deepest values, to take better care of ourselves because we are made in the image of love? Can we build some habits and resolutions around those choices? Practices that remind us who we are and how we are connected and held in relationship and in faith.

Because we need these practices in our lives when trouble and mess and anxiety come—as they always will—in small doses or overwhelmingly huge doses—one of the things that can get us through, that can provide us perspective, that can remind us of our humanity and our hope, that can recall us to seeing the beautiful and wonderful in life are those hobbies and habits that we have built and nurtured and crafted for ourselves, those practices that ground us and give us space to be fully human in the face of all of life's wonders and dangers and which allow us to reach out to each other in community and work for justice in the world.

So rather than plan to fix yourself this January, how can you build practices that make it possible for you to remember the values at the core of your life, to greet your neighbor as

your kin, and share in blessing our common life with beauty and love and commitment?

in peace and love
Rev. Ian

SERVICES

January 2, 2022

Ministry for the Earth, Part One: “How to Survive the End of the World”

Worship Leader: Rev. Dr. Donald Stouder

Worship Associate: Bryna Blum

Rev. Don will be joining us on January 2 and January 23, 2022 to present a series of sermons addressing different themes in climate change and climate justice. His sermons will be built around one overarching theme: that our 7th principle has to be urgently embraced, and that we will never get a break to build a better world. We have to do it while still surviving in this one.

January 9, 2022

We Are How We Treat Each Other and Nothing More

Worship Leader: Rev. Ian W. Riddell

Worship Associate: Bob Rancourt

As we begin a new year, we set goals for ourselves. What are the standards by which we'll measure the success of those goals? What if rather than wealth or fame or having more stuff, we decided to measure success by the richness and lovingness of our relationships? What would be different if those were our criteria?

January 16, 2022

In Ourselves and In Our Institutions: The 8th Principle

Worship Leader: Rev. Ian W. Riddell

Worship Associate: Sarita Gonzales

Our congregation is beginning the work of engaging with an eighth Unitarian Universalist principle. Why is it important for us to affirm and promote justice and commit to the building of beloved community? How might we be different as individuals and as a community if we made this commitment out loud?

January 23, 2022

Ministry for the Earth, Part Two: “Aldo Leopold and the Ethics of the Land”

Worship Leader: Rev. Dr. Donald Stouder

Worship Associate: Joni Paddock

Rev. Don will be joining us on January 2 and January 23, 2022 to present a series of sermons addressing different themes in climate change and climate justice. His sermons will be built around one overarching theme: that our 7th principle has to be urgently embraced, and that we will never get a break to build a better world. We have to do it while still surviving in this one.

January 30, 2022

A Commitment to Generosity

Worship Leader: Rev. Ian W. Riddell

Worship Associate: Betty Bender

Our community thrives because we practice generosity. We bring our hearts and minds and hands to the work of nurturing our community and sharing our vision. Join us as we reflect on generosity.

Worship Service/Sunday Together

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

"This is a wonderful day I have never seen this one before." Maya Angelou

May we enter every day of 2022 with this as our mantra. May we recognize the newness of each day and enter it with wonder and excitement at what will be instore for us. Will we make a new friend or have an aha moment or will we wrap ourselves in the warmth of familiarity today? Whatever each day brings, may we step into it with an open heart and mind ready to practice gratitude for all that we receive.

Recently I was reading and meditating on gratitude. One of the exercises I came across was to think about all the people in my life and then to think about life without them. When I did that, I realized what a hole there would be in my life without all of you. Each and every one of you is a gift and brings light and love into my life. I am thankful for you and your contributions to my life. As you enter this New Year, take some time to think of all those you interact with and how their gifts brighten your days. Then thank one of them, just for being here with you.

May you have a wonderful day today,

Linda Savard, Board President

MONTHLY CALENDAR

Sunday, January 2

10:00 am-Worship Service

11:00 am-Sunday Together

Monday, January 3

9:00 am-Work Party

5:15 pm-Monday Meditation

6:00 pm-S2S2S Rehearsal

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

Tuesday, January 4

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

6:00 pm-S2S2S Rehearsal

Wednesday, January 5

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

Thursday, January 6

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

6:00 pm-S2S2S Rehearsal

6:00 pm-DOS Education Class

Friday, January 7

8:00 am-Men's Breakfast

Saturday, January 8

Monday, January 17

9:00 am-Work Party

2:00 pm-Life Span Class

5:15 pm-Monday Meditation

6:00 pm-S2S2S Rehearsal

Tuesday, January 18

5:00 pm-Board of Directors

Meeting-**Zoom**

6:00 pm-S2S2S Rehearsal

Wednesday, January 19

1:30 pm-Chalice Circle

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

Thursday, January 20

8:00 am-Grief Labyrinth Walk

6:00 pm-S2S2S Rehearsal

6:30 pm-Life Span Class-**Zoom**

Friday, January 21

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

7:00 pm-S2S2S Show

Saturday, January 22

10:00 am-Church Council

10:00 am-DOS Torah Study

7:00 pm-S2S2S Show

Sunday, January 9

10:00 am-Worship Service

11:00 am-Sunday Together

12:00 pm-Finance Committee **Zoom**

3:00 pm-ICD Meeting

Sunday, January 23

10:00 am-Worship Service

11:00 am-Sunday Together

3:00 pm-ICD Meeting

Monday, January 10

9:00 am-Work Party

2:00 pm-Lifespan Class

5:15 pm-Monday Meditation

6:00 pm-Women's Nite Out

6:00 pm-S2S2S Rehearsal

Monday, January 24

9:00 am-Work Party

2:00 pm-Life Span Class

5:15 pm-Monday Meditation

Tuesday, January 11

2:00 pm-Chalice Circle Facilitator's Meeting-**Zoom**

6:00 pm-S2S2S Rehearsal

Tuesday, January 25

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

Thursday, January 13

6:00 pm-S2S2S Rehearsal

6:30 pm-Life Span Class-**Zoom**

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

Thursday, January 27

6:30 pm-Life Span Class-**Zoom**

Friday, January 14

5:00 pm-DOS Service

Saturday, January 29

6:00 pm-Bingo-**Zoom**

Sunday, January 16

10:00 am-Worship Service

10:00 am-Share the Plate

11:00 am-Sunday Together

2:00 pm-Chalice Circle

Sunday, January 30

10:00 am-Worship Service

11:00 am-Sunday Together

2:00 pm-DOS Choir

Monday, January 31

9:00 am-Work Party

5:15 pm-Monday Meditation

Staying Connected

Sunday Service: Sunday, January 2 @ 10:00 am

Sunday Together: Sunday, January 2 @ 11:00 am

Work Party: Monday, January 3 @ 9:00 am

Monday Meditation: Monday, January 3 @ 5:15 pm **In Person with masks**

Care Team Meeting: Monday, January 3 @ 6:30 pm

S2S2S Rehearsal: Monday, January 3 @ 6:00 pm

DIBM Meeting: Tuesday, January 4 @ 9:30am

S2S2S Rehearsal: Tuesday, January 4 @ 6:00 pm

Facilities Meeting: Wednesday, January 5 @ 6:30 pm

Stewardship Committee: Thursday, January 6 @ 2:00 pm

S2S2S Rehearsal: Thursday, January 6 @ 6:00 pm

DOS Education Class: Thursday, January 6 @ 6:00pm

Men's Breakfast: Friday, January 7 @ 8:00am **In Person**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Plate Collections for December 26th, 2021: \$186.66



Greeters Needed for Sunday Mornings

Serving as a Sunday greeter is a great way to get to know your fellow Church members and an easy, fun way to be of service. Please consider volunteering. There will be a folder placed in the Church foyer where you can sign up for specific dates. If you have any questions, please contact your greeter coordinator, LeGrand Velez.



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 Omicon 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.



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.

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).

There will be an interfaith forum on our Polarized Culture at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church on January 27, 2022, from 4:00-6:30 PM. If you think this is something you might be interested in attending, there is a flyer in the foyer with more information.



Start the Pledge Drive with a BASH - a Zoom BINGO BASH! Saturday, January 29th from 6:00pm-7:30pm

Everyone is invited! There is no charge to participate. A Zoom link will be sent out the Wednesday prior to the Bash.

To ensure you received your bingo card pre-registration is required. Register either through the link below, the Constant Contact email that is will go out on 1/10/22 or after church services on the patio.

If you are out of town and would like to participate please register before 1/17/22 so we have time to mail your bingo card to you.

Please email Carol Lavoie with questions.



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

Voting Rights and Build Back Better



We continue to watch for further developments on the **Freedom to Vote Act** and the **John Lewis Voting Rights Amendment Act**. Support for these will be needed in January as Congress reconvenes. These bills would set minimum standards nationwide for access to voting and securing voting systems so that all lawfully-cast votes are counted. We are also watching to see what the final form will be of the Build Back Better package of budget reconciliation legislation designed to support workers, families, seniors and more. Please watch this space in the coming weeks for ways you can take action to strengthen the democratic process and to support legislation that will respect the inherent worth and dignity of all persons by providing needed support to health care coverage, child care services and more.



The 8th Principle - What is it and Should UUCOD Adopt it?

Unitarian Universalism has a long and at times checkered history of fighting racism within the organization and in broader society. The idea of the 8th Principle began in 2013 and came from a feeling that we need something to renew our commitment to this anti-racist work, to hold ourselves accountable, and to fulfill the potential of our existing principles.

The proposed 8th Principle for all Unitarian Universalists reads:

"We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to

affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.”

Rev. Ian will be preaching on the 8th Principle on Sunday, January 16, 2022.

PLEASE JOIN US following this service for further discussion about the 8th Principle, to ask questions, and imagine what it could mean for our congregation.

For more information contact Sandy Sladen or Hiroshi Yamaguchi.

LIFE SPAN SPIRITUAL GROWTH



Explore Unitarian Universalist Worship with Rev. Ian

A three-session class exploring Unitarian Universalist worship. What is it? Why do we do it? How can we deepen our experience to broaden our appreciation? How can we make it accessible and powerful for everyone?

Instructor: Rev. Ian

In Person Offering: On Mondays: Jan 10, 17 and 24 from 2:00pm-4:00pm in the Sanctuary
Zoom Offering: On Thursdays: Jan, 13, 20 and 27 from 6:30 -8:30 p.m. on Zoom.

Materials Needed: notebook and things which you can use to write and draw.
Hymn book and other resources will be provided.

If you have any questions please contact: Carol Lavoie

Reflect, Rejoice, Renew: PWR Regional Assembly 2022



Multi-Platform Regional Assembly 2022

As 2022 nears, we feel the need to be with each other in our community. This Pacific Western Region Assembly will allow us to be with UU's from all over the West as well as participate virtually from home. The PWR is having their first Multi-Platform (virtual and in person) Regional Assembly. In person events will be at the Hyatt Regency Mission Bay, in San Diego.

Consider joining this opportunity to experience a gathering of UU's from all over the west. There will be large and small group worship, activities, discussion, and learning. This is a time to connect with other UU's and celebrate our community.

JANUARY REGISTRATION DEADLINES:
On site in San Diego register through January 4
On line/virtual register through January 23rd.
Sliding Scale Costs are below

Where: Virtual and San Diego, California
Hyatt Regency Mission Bay, 1441 Quivira Road, San Diego, California You can explore the venue directly; for our group rate, please make [Hotel Reservations \(Hyatt.com\)](https://www.hyatt.com)

When: Friday, February 4 through Sunday, February 6, 2022

Our featured speaker for Opening Gathering Friday, January 4 is UUA President Rev. Dr. Susan Frederick-Gray.

This will be the Pacific Western Region's third Regional Assembly, but the first since two of the districts within it voted to merge and one district authorized its dissolution, all enroute to PWR becoming a legal entity itself. We will highlight the histories of the districts and the ongoing work of the Regional Transitions Team while we are together.

This multi-platform format gives each of us the flexibility to participate in the best way for us. You can participate in person, in beautiful San Diego. You can also participate from the comfort of your own home, wearing your bunny slippers or other comfortable footwear.

On Friday February 4, there will be an optional Border Justice Experience with on-line and in-person components. This community service/learning/justice opportunity is in coordination with UURISE and local partners. All onsite events will occur on the US side of the Mexican border.

Watch as many programs as often you like! Social gatherings, networking, and discussions will be available online, and also at the Hyatt Regency Mission Bay Resort. All educational programs will be offered via the internet and available to us prior to the Regional Assembly. Attend the way that works for you.

Key events, like worship services, will be broadcast to watch at home, or on the big screen on the hotel. On site events in San Diego will be predominantly outdoors and will offer the ability to socially distance as you feel comfortable

Together we will be: rejoicing in one another's company again, reflecting on what we've been through, and renewing ourselves, our commitments, and our UU faith.

Cost: Sliding Scale:

\$250 per person on site in San Diego register through January 4th.

\$125 per person on line register through January 23rd.

Sliding scale based on your assessment of your ability to pay.

Below is the website to review all of the information and to register.
Covid-19 protocols and information on a late pandemic is on the registration site.

Pacific Western Regional Assembly 2022 Regional Assembly (RA) calls for "Shorts"

You are all invited to create a short video for the Regional Assembly.
Let your creativity flow! See below for details.

RA "Shorts"

Selected short videos will be made available to all who participate in Regional Assembly 2022. Some may be used in RA programming; some will be available for viewing leading into the weekend and some will be available for participants to use in a future worship service.

- Natural beauty near your home, or a short nature trail
- A great congregational program to share with others.
- A song or Story for All ages that you have the rights to play & share
- Maybe you want to update us on a bit of cluster news
- A chalice lighting - reading & lighting

Here is a great format for just that kind of communication. We are not seeking commercial submissions. Professional film crews are not needed. Cell phone or Zoom videos are often very good. Regional Assembly is our joint gathering-won't you contribute? Details and submissions.

Submission Deadline is January 5th, 2022

Youth and Emerging Adult New Pacific Western Region

JUUST Breathe Live

YouTube.com/JuustBreatheLive
Interview and Music of Rising Appalachia
January 9 at 5:00pm PT

JUUST Breathe Live-Bonus episode January 9th at 5pm PT/8 pm ET
Interview and music with Rising Appalachia.
Chloe Smith and Leah Song join Eric and Shannon to discuss music, love and community.

Regular Monthly episode will be January 23rd at 5pm PT/8 pm ET
Topic will be Climate Justice. Noella Prescod and Zoe Johnston will be joining Eric and Shannon to talk about this important topic.

SOCIAL JUSTICE



Food (and Now Clothing) on the First is this Sunday

We collect for Galilee Center and their overnight shelter. Galilee Center distributes food and clothing to seniors & families in need in the Mecca area, as well as taking care of 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 NEEDED

children's clothing - sizes 2T - 14
boys & mens pants & shirts - all sizes

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 Sunday?
Just bring them anytime the church is open & put them in the brown bin in the lobby.



Socks on the Second is Sunday, January 9th

Socks on the Second is a program of the Social Justice Committee whereby we collect new socks for women, men, & kids on the second Sunday of each month that you bring in. They will be delivered to *Well in the Desert* at one of their five lunchtime sites Palm Springs and distributed to any person in need who comes in.

Can't make it to church then? We've got you covered. Simply drop them off in the brown bin in the lobby at UUCOD the next time you are there.
Easy Peasy!

So the next time you go shopping, add socks to your cart then bring them to UUCOD. A person in need will thank you.

CARE TEAM NEWS

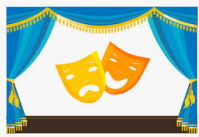


Dear Friends,

Life 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 throughout the week.

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

Bryna Blum



SCRIPT2STAGE2SCREEN PRESENTS A QUIRKY COMEDY, "I'M NOT RICK SPRINGFIELD"

Script2Stage2Screen, which reopened in October, will present an original comedy – "I'm Not Rick Springfield" – as its third production of the season on January 21 and 22, 2022. The playwright is Vicki Vodrey of Kansas City, Mo.

"We'll be laughing out loud during our January show," said Steve Fisher, Script2Stage2Screen's artistic director. "This play's story arc is driven by hero worship, mistaken identity and family dysfunction. We're excited to have Phylicia Mason directing for the first time with Script2Stage2Screen. She is a noted actress and director very active in the Valley's community theaters."

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 continues the Church's policies on preventing the spread of COVID. Script2Stage2Screen:

- Is requiring proof of full vaccination to attend its performances. All cast and crew will be fully vaccinated, and wear masks except when acting.

- Is asking patrons to register in advance and provide contact information, in order to perform contact tracing if needed.
- Is requiring attendees to wear masks.
- Is setting up seating to allow social distancing.
- Is requiring ticket purchases or RSVPs in advance (www.script2stage2screen.com).
- Is offering refreshments outdoors in front of the church; to be consumed outside.

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 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.

"When you do things from your soul, you feel a river moving in you, a joy."

— Rumi

Visit our website

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

