



# Horizons Journal

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix  
January 2016



## The Quest for Truth

Reverend Susan Frederick-Gray

As 2016 unfolds, we return to reflecting on the meaning of the covenant that we say every week and what it means to be a people that live out love, truth, service and peace.

We begin in January with truth. I can't help but think of comedian Stephen Colbert's coining of the word "Truthiness" as we begin this exploration. According to Colbert, "truthiness" is a kind of truth a person asserts or argues which one claims to know intuitively, or "from the gut," without any regard to evidence, logic, intellectual examination or facts.

Truth feels like an especially relevant and difficult topic in a time when there is so much division between people. Whether we are talking about global climate change, policing in the U.S., the impacts of migration and immigration, the

response needed in the face of the refugee crisis, or the best ways to respond to terrorism, there is a gulf in perspectives and all sides seem to have facts they can quote to bolster their arguments. Where is truth in all of this division?

Perhaps the challenge is really one of truthiness. In other words, the differences may not really be about the facts, but about fundamental moral differences in how people see the world, what they hold sacred, how they see themselves in relationship to others, to God, to creation. For all of these have a profound effect on how we see and respond to the world and the trials of living.

As Unitarian Universalists, this is especially interesting, because we don't covenant to promote or protect or instill the truth. Rather, we covenant to make *the quest for truth our sacrament*. Sacrament

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## A True Welcome

Katie Resendiz

Acting Director, Children's Ministries

As Unitarian Universalists, one of our most beloved identifiers is "Welcoming Community." We were leaders in the freedom to marriage campaigns. We work to be a safe place for the LGBT community. We have a history of action for civil rights. In recent months congregations across the country have wrestled what it means to be welcoming in a time of racial unrest. We at UUCP have hung a "Black Lives Matter" banner in our sanctuary. It calls us to think first of the prejudices in our own hearts. We are working to create a community that goes beyond acceptance and tokenization.

In last month's *Horizons*, Vince Waldron reflected on his first visit to UUCP, and his realization that his transgender son could be

"secure in the knowledge that he would always be welcomed by the UU community." I know that for many adults, UUCP has become the place where they can be honest about their political alignments, be comfortable in their skin, and know they will be accepted. For many families, our Sunday School is a chance for their kids to be free in a way that the school week never allows and to talk about faith in a way that may be taboo even in their own extended families. For many children, it's the one chance all week to hang out with other kids who have two dads, live in interracial homes, or who don't eat meat. We have created a wonderful space. In fact, like Vince, many families come to UUCP specifically because they view it as a place where their children who are "different" will be accepted and supported.

I've seen the amazing ways we work to

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## Getting to the Heart of Musical Meaning

Benjie Messer

Music Director

Discovering the truth about something, whether it's a piece of music, a story, an aspect of history, or an issue in contemporary society, involves research. When I'm just looking for information to put a piece of music in context for our worship services, a quick internet search usually yields enough information for a quick introduction or a few lines of music notes. But for our performers, who might spend hours mastering an intricate piece, it can be meaningful to know more details about why it was written, why it was written in just that way, how the composer intended it to be performed, etc. When I have time, I love to research these questions, by searching through writing on the subject, or contacting people who know the subject well. The best way, when possible, is to ask the composer directly—so I'm excited to tell you about several ways that our UUCP choir is working directly with the composers of our music.

Unitarian Universalist composer John Metz first moved to Arizona in 1980 to teach harpsichord and build an early music program at ASU. After resettling to the east coast to direct the Connecticut Early Music Festival, he and his wife returned to Gold Canyon, Arizona and became members of Valley UU in Chandler. On December 9<sup>th</sup> John attended our Wednesday evening choir rehearsal and coached our choir on an 18<sup>th</sup>-century French "Noël" that he discovered in 1980 and arranged and published in 2011. He quickly and clearly answered questions of articulation and phrasing from a deep knowledge of 18<sup>th</sup>-century French music, answers that I could only have guessed at. Most exciting to me was the respect and generosity our musicians showed to John. They thanked him for giving us his music, listened to his suggestions with excellent attention, and then sang their hearts out. By the time you read this article, we will have sung John's "Noël" on Christmas Eve, and I'm sure it will have gone better because of our connection with him.

Our choir will also soon be working with Elizabeth Alexander, one of our most well-known and often-sung Unitarian Universalist composers.

The music programs of Arizona's UU congregations have joined forces to bring Elizabeth to Valley UU in Chandler for a choir workshop at the end of January. Our combined choirs will rehearse five pieces with her that day, including her unpublished anthem "Let It Matter," which was premiered in November and references the Black Lives Matter movement. "Let It Matter" is still in the "workshopping" phase, and exists in several different versions, so our singers' feedback may play a role in determining Elizabeth's final arrangement. Our workshop with her on Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup> will close with an informal concert at 4:00 PM at Valley UU featuring each of Elizabeth's pieces, and we will also include her music at UUCP's All-Music Sunday on March 6<sup>th</sup>.

Of course, we have composers in our own congregation, too, who I try to feature regularly in services, including Jerry Whalin and Heidi Singer, both longtime members of our UUCP choir. The choir performed a wonderful hymn medley last year that Jerry wrote, and I hope to return to a beautiful piece of Heidi's this spring which the choir learned last year but didn't perform. I appreciate them sharing their music with us; it is a unique and meaningful connection to have with another person to help create the music that they imagine. Our small musical groups primarily perform music by the great composers in their genre—our jazz trio performs great jazz songs, the Dissidents performs great country and rock songs, etc.—but if those groups continue, I hope they also become homes to UUCP composers.

I'm glad that our music program at UUCP includes these personal connections with composers. I hope they remind all of our musicians, as they remind me, that the notes on the page narrate someone's personal truth. Perhaps they can remind us that all art and writing reflects someone's mind and heart, even when we don't know the person who wrote it. And perhaps finding answers to difficult, personal questions can remind us that there are true answers to most of the questions that we can imagine, even if we don't have those answers yet. □



## Keep Our Chalice Burning Strong

Susan Goldsmith

Chair, Unitarian Universalist Foundation of Phoenix

Many longtime members will remember UUCP member Margaret Herrick who passed away just over a year ago. Margaret was a member of Chalice Keepers, the society that recognizes those who have expressed their intent to provide for the Congregation in their estate plans. Thanks to her long commitment to the Congregation, her generosity, and her planning ahead, Margaret's legacy gift has more than doubled the amount held by the UU Foundation of Phoenix to support the present and ensure the future of UUCP.

The Foundation has a long tradition of distributing five percent of the assets to the Congregation each year to assist with the general budget. In addition, the Foundation has made some significant projects possible through loans and gifts to the Congregation. The six-member Board is

elected to three-year terms by the Congregation, two elected each year. Look in the publications rack in the front lobby for our new brochures about the Foundation and about Chalice Keepers.

The more the Foundation funds grow, through sound investment and mostly through gifts of all sizes, the more is contributed to meeting the mission and achieving the vision of the Congregation.

We would love to welcome each of you to Chalice Keepers. If you have questions about legacy giving, please contact any member of the Foundation Board or speak with Heidi Parmenter, Business Administrator. □



Margaret Herrick

## Unicare News

For more information on significant events in the life of UUCP members and friends, sign up for our Unicare email list at [unicare@phoenixuu.org](mailto:unicare@phoenixuu.org).



### In remembrance:

- Member Lyman Manser died peacefully in hospice care on November 21.

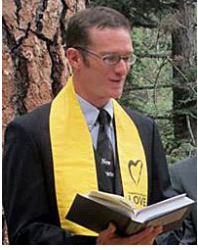
### Milestone celebrations:

- Bill Snowden and Joan Gale celebrate their retirements.
- Teri and Donna Talbot celebrated their 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary on 11/11, with a special milestone of one year of legally recognized marriage.

### Other news:

- Marshall Valentine takes the spirit of UUCP with him as he relocates to North Carolina.
- We honor the 12-year anniversary of UUCP member Aster Yohannes' return to Eritrea. In Aster's name, our UU community continues to reach out to Eritrean refugees.

Our Unicare community helps members and friends of UUCP communicate and support significant events in the life of our congregation through email. To get involved, contact our Unicare Coordinator, Vicki Myers, at [unicare@phoenixuu.org](mailto:unicare@phoenixuu.org).



## Truth in the Courtroom

Emrys Staton

Ministerial Intern

**D**o you swear to tell the truth,  
the whole truth, and nothing  
but the truth?

You may recognize these words as the standard swearing-in statement that one must affirm when taking the witness stand in a courtroom. I found myself having to agree to this statement back in 2009 during a federal trial when I was charged with littering.

The original littering citation that led to this court appearance came from my volunteer work with No More Deaths. The federal government wanted to argue that when we left jugs of water in the desert, we were “littering.” We wanted to fight that perception.

Perception was the operative word. The U.S. Attorney tried to paint a story for the jury that I was flagrantly violating known laws. The version of truth they put forth included the idea that the desert was a pristine environment now desecrated by plastic jugs, such as the ones I was caught distributing. They said my jugs lured people into the desert, and that I was aiding criminals.

Their truth clashed with mine. My truth included stories of people dying of dehydration. It included a broader context of migration, and the fact that I often picked up more trash than what I left behind (we always pick up and recycle the empty jugs we find, along with other items).

The courtroom was supposed to be the mediator and arbiter of truth. However, even before the trial began, I had handed a list of words and concepts that I would not be allowed to use in my defense. For example, I couldn’t talk about migration, death, trade policy, religious beliefs, or anything else that provided the context of my actions.

At the end of the day, the only truth the court wanted to know was related directly to the charges. Did I or did I not put those jugs of water on the ground? My motives were not to be taken into consideration.

When my turn came to step up to the witness stand, I thought I could keep my composure—stay calm and navigate the questions from the prosecutor. I quickly became frustrated as he worked to force me into a corner that felt unfair and humiliating. I think I would have totally lost it had we not recessed for lunch. It went a little better in the afternoon as I finished my testimony. But I left the whole experience with a deep disappointment—this wasn’t about truth at all, it was about blame. I felt lied to. If they actually wanted the whole truth, the conversation would have been very different.

Truth, after all, lives in a world of context. What was a cut-and-dry case of littering for the U.S. government was, for me, a more complex case of compassionate humanitarian action to resist deadly border policies. In the end, the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court put out a ruling that water jugs don’t fit the definition of garbage, adding another layer of truth to the whole matter.

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In Unitarian Universalism, we put a lot of emphasis on the search for truth. It matters how we conduct the search. Being an aggressive prosecutor, grilling for the truth, might feel effective, but I think it is ultimately counterproductive. This is why the fourth principle includes the word “responsible” search for truth.

As we explore this theme in January, I hope to foster discussions looking at how we go about finding truth in our lives and in the world at large. Based on my court experience, the way we search for truth is every bit as important as the truth itself. □



## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, January 31—10:30 AM—UUCP Sanctuary

Please join the Board for our midyear Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 31 at 10:30 AM between services in the Sanctuary. At this meeting the Board and Vision Task Force will unveil the new Vision statement that we hope to adopt at the following Congregational Meeting in June. This is one important step in an ongoing conversation about who we want to be as a congregation. All are welcome, and childcare is provided.

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*Continued from "The Quest..." Rev. Susan, page 1*

is not a word we use very often. It means sacred act. So, with these words, we are saying that to always seek truth is our religious practice.

*Love is the doctrine of this congregation,  
The quest for truth is our sacrament  
And service is our prayer.  
To dwell together in peace,  
To seek knowledge in freedom,  
To share our strength in fellowship,  
thus do we covenant.*

Fortunately or unfortunately, there is a paradox that comes with always seeking truth. It encourages creativity, curiosity and a willingness to question and look more deeply and critically at what we are told. However, if taken seriously, it also leads to the discovery that there may not be any one capital "T" truth. Experience, perspective, context impact one's truth. As the Nobel Prize-winning physicist Niels Bohr said, "The opposite of a correct statement is a false statement. But the opposite of a profound truth may well be another profound truth." It is these profound truths that we are in search of as Unitarian Universalists.

When it comes to the challenges of our day, we find ourselves at a critical junction. How we choose to proceed and respond to these crises matters. However, simply debating the "facts" or looking only at the surface issues will not suffice. What is needed is to engage and share the deep profound truths we hold most dear. For these are the values and principles that become the foundation for how we view the world, how we respond to fear or despair. These profound truths are a bedrock that shape how we live, how we see the world and one another. They shape how we share and what we give. This is where we must engage the questions and trials of today.

This month, we will dive deeper into issues that are at the surface of our world today, but we will also be invited to explore and share the more profound truths that guide our living. There will always be differences of opinion, but it is incredibly valuable for us as a people and society, when confronted with so much tragedy, that we move beyond the surface arguments to really engage the deep profound truths, so that we may be clear on which truths we wish to build our communities and societies upon. □



## A Free & Responsible *Telling* of the Truth

Kim St. Clair

Worship Associate

My 16-year old son recently introduced me to the television series *Jane the Virgin*. Teeming with the melodrama of the telenovelas it parodies, the series has a surprisingly fresh take on our Unitarian Universalist Third Principle of “the free and responsible search for truth and meaning.” My guess is most UUs view this free and responsible search for the capital “T” truth, that elusive concept of a metaphysical, universal “Truth” that brings meaning to our individual existence. But what if this principle is seen through a lens of literal truth?

Thus is main premise of *Jane the Virgin*. Briefly, Jane is a 23-year old Latina who made and has kept the vow to her abuela to remain a virgin until she marries. After a mix-up at a gynecologist appointment, however, Jane is artificially inseminated and, thus, is now a pregnant virgin.

This plot twist sets into motion myriad developments that challenge Jane and those in her universe to tell the truth. In each episode, multiple characters, including Jane, wrestle with their “true” feelings and whether or not to reveal damaging information to another character. In each instance, Jane determines telling the truth to herself and others maintains her sense of self in the world. Likewise, Jane is hurt and angry when she discovers someone she loves is untruthful and makes clear that the withholding of information or outright lie is much more damaging than the information itself.

I admire Jane. I admire her wrestling with conflicting feelings, especially the desire to withhold her truth in fear of losing someone or something. Ultimately, Jane knows the lie is most especially damaging to her soul. Too many times we are paralyzed by the potential consequences of telling the truth without considering the consequences of *not* telling it. Yet, living with an untruth corrodes our ability to trust ourselves, not just others’ trust. Indeed, the “truth” comes in many forms ranging from the factual retelling of an event to facing an internal fear or desire. Withholding such truths robs not only ourselves but also others of the ability to

freely and responsibly act on the knowledge.

Without a doubt, this take on the “free and responsible search for truth and meaning” is my growing edge. I am not alone in having told little and big untruths to both others and myself. Yet, I am confident that freeing myself to responsibly search for and articulate the truth is exactly what I need in order to discover the more ephemeral “Truth.” I am convinced the meaning for which we all search lies in our ability to do so. The beauty of striving to tell and discover truth is part of our human journey, which is a “Truth” found in the telenovela form. Each episode ends with “To Be Continued . . .” May my search and yours always be continued . . . □

### Auction FUNdraising Results

Heidi Parmenter, Auction Planner

I am pleased to report that our 2015 Auction raised:

\$6,880 at the live auction  
\$560 through event sign-ups  
\$825 in sponsorship  
\$3,284 through the online auction

For a grand total of \$11,549! Our fundraising goal was \$13,000 and we were very close. Our community-building goal of having more member/friend sponsored events and activities than physical items was surpassed! We have more community-hosted opportunities this year than ever before. Now the real fun begins...hearing all the great stories from everyone as they enjoy their winnings and make new friends.

*Did you miss out? Well, you have one more chance to get in on the fun—go to [www.phoenixuu.org/auction](http://www.phoenixuu.org/auction) to see what events still have openings for you to participate!*

*Continued from "A True..." page 1*

accommodate individuals with physical disabilities and temporary injuries. We invest money, people, and time to make sure that we have resources for mobility issues, visual impairment, and hearing loss. We are loving and kind when including those identities in our community. We have great compassion.

I am learning disabled. I'm not just "a little dyslexic," I am very disabled. Ordinary tasks present a barrier. My brain works differently from a typical brain. I require special accommodations. I could give lots of clinical definitions, I could illustrate all of the coping methods I use on a daily basis, I could give a narrative about the amazing teacher who taught me to type. But, I don't have to, because you believe me. I think you believe me because I am a functioning, successful, capable adult in a leadership position. I feel your trust and respect. You are my community. Our identities are intertwined and I am so thankful.

But the truth is, sometimes I feel rejected. Sometimes I feel the need to sublimate my identity. Sometimes I feel like I need to use my coping methods to trick you into thinking I'm normal. I see how we respond to children with developmental, behavioral, and learning disabilities and my instinct is to hide those facets of myself. I was not always a functioning, successful, capable adult.

I've heard complaints about children who won't sit still, who take too many cookies, and who don't follow directions. I acknowledge that behavior is an issue and discipline is a very important skill for children to learn. But, I ask that as a community, we come to acknowledge and accommodate those kids who are struggling with disabilities. Many of these disabilities are hidden. Like me, children don't wear a sign declaring that they're struggling or stressed—some of them work hard at trying to blend and fit in, but it doesn't always work. Children with disabilities do not and cannot always act the way we expect.

So how do we accommodate the disabilities we can't be sure of?

If a child's behavior seems so outside of the norm, so different from your expectations, take a

minute to ask, "What's going on with this little one?" Is she dealing with a recent upset? Is he just being jerk? Is this child really hungry? Is it a red flag for trauma? Does she need some attention? Is he targeting you specifically? Is this child trying to live in our community with a disability?

Can we really be expected to know how to deal with someone else's hidden struggle, invisible illness, or really bad day?

We can. If we are to be radically inclusive, we have to. It is integral to our identity.

Find that answer and ask a second question. "How would I respond if this was an adult?"

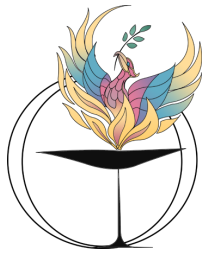
You know that girl who always tries to tell you long stories that make no sense? Think of her as your great uncle who would get lost in his memories while trying to make you understand his military service.

That boy who you have to tell the same thing to 20 times? He's the grandmother who can't come to terms with her hearing aid.

The kid screaming in the hallway? Make sure he's safe, make sure he's not hurt, find someone who can help him feel comfortable. If I burst into yelling tears in the hallway, I hope that's what you'll do for me.

This level of welcoming isn't simple. It's a matter of deep reflection and truth in the things we tell ourselves. Can we really be expected to know how to deal with someone else's hidden struggle, invisible illness, or really bad day?

We can. If we are to be radically inclusive, we have to. It is integral to our identity. Our hard truth might be that we are called to employ compassion before all else. We are a welcoming community... and love is the doctrine of this, our shared, congregation. □



## Welcome New Members!

The ministers and Membership Committee were delighted to welcome 17 new members to our congregation following the November Pathway to Membership class.

Please say hello and get to know them when you see them on campus and elsewhere. For more information on the next Pathway to Membership class on February 14 and 21, 2016, contact [KristinaBenner@phoenixuu.org](mailto:KristinaBenner@phoenixuu.org).



Keith O'Hare grew up in Hillside, NJ, where he lived until waking up at some point in Arizona. He currently works as a cardiothoracic trauma nurse, and enjoys cigars, Nutella, and Lego; but not together, that would be messy. Stephanie O'Hare grew up locally

in Gilbert and is currently a stay-at-home mom. She enjoys bluegrass music, crafty things, and both nap and bedtime, when she can watch TV in total silence. They have two beautiful daughters, Lilith and Lotus, and are looking forward to being a part of this amazing community that makes social justice a priority.

Cherie Stafford is a second-generation Arizona native, lucky enough to have also lived overseas and on the East Coast. These experiences gave her a thirst for travel and learning about other cultures. She is an educator, mother of three daughters, and grandmother to six.



She enjoys hiking, biking, and traveling with friends, as well as volunteering, gardening, photography, and stories in all forms. She is grateful to have found such a warm and welcoming community in UUCP.



Chris and Kelly Akin have been married for three years and have a one-year-old daughter, Clementine (a Christmas baby!). Kelly works in higher education and Chris is an at-home dad. With the birth of their daughter, they decided that she needs to grow up with a tradition and a moral background. Kelly

was raised Catholic and Chris was raised Christian, but they knew that those traditions were not right for their family. They are very excited to find this congregation and are in love with the feeling of community, camaraderie, and beautiful music they get to hear every Sunday. They look forward to Clementine growing up in the church and making friends of her own within the congregation.



Kindred (Kinnie) McEvoy grew up in Detroit, where she attended College for Creative Studies for Photography and Design and is currently working at Shutterfly. She and the love of her life, Tony, moved to Arizona six years ago so Tony could attend culinary school and is now an amazing chef. Since moving to the desert, they got married. In 2014 they welcomed their daughter, Khaleesi, who inspires them every day in an infinite variety of creative outlets.



An Ohio native, Vicki (Victoria) Myers has lived in Phoenix 37 years. Her career focused on healthcare—radiology, management, IT, project management—and she is currently a hospice volunteer. She has never belonged to a congregation before, but values the UUCP community and mission. Vicki looks forward to her new role as UUCP's Unicare



Coordinator. She loves to travel with her husband, Ted, read, paint, hike, cook, see movies, and enjoy the company of friends.



Bill Army is originally from Ohio City, OH, where he grew up attending a Churches of God congregation, and fondly remembers the people, music, traditions, and hospitality. As he grew older, he was turned off by the literalism and exclusivity, and decided to move on.

After finishing college and moving to Phoenix, Bill read about the life of John Adams and decided to explore Unitarian Universalism. Immediately, he felt comfortable with the service structure, inclusion, and search for truth, which prompted him to become a member of UUCP. Over the next few months, he hopes to find opportunities to serve our congregation, and give back to the community.



Joan O'Connor and Eric Muehlstedt were raised in traditional Christian settings, and both were enriched by caring for their mothers near their passing. Eric is a software engineer and finds joy in nonprofit board service. After work as a legal secretary

and paralegal, and a long time out of the traditional workforce helping her mother, Joan trained in therapeutic massage and still practices after more than 20 years. They say: "We are so happy to be a part of this congregation. We often slip and call it church, though! We came to find community and build more of a spiritual practice together. We are grateful to have found you all!" They have enjoyed the open small group, Living by Heart, and Emrys's group—as well as Community Nights, ushering, and getting to know congregation members. They

appreciate the thoughtful sermons, readings, splendid music, and opportunities for service.



Susan and Curtiss Manker-Seale joined the UUCP choir and married here in 1979. Susan is the daughter of UUCP's Minister Emeritus, Ray, and Gretchen Manker, so she grew up in this church. After teaching bilingual special education, she became a UU minister and served congregations in Arizona for 30 years. They moved back to Phoenix to be nearer parents, children and grandchildren, and Susan is recreating her ministry as a writer. She loves nature, camp and music. Curtiss, a University of Arizona graduate, he managed Walgreens stores for 29 years. He enjoys travel, photography, music and outdoor sports. The Manker-Seales have also lived in Prescott, Tucson, Berkeley, San Rafael, Flagstaff and now, New River.



Janine, Justin, and Vivienne Gelsinger moved to Arizona from Denver, CO, in June of 2015, and started attending UUCP. Justin, born in Chicago and schooled in Northern Michigan, is experiencing his first desert winter. He enjoys his new job at One Source Virtual, and loves to cook, swim, run, and read. Janine grew up in Scottsdale, attended ASU, and is happy to be back home in sunshine after seven years in the snow! Transitioning out of her stay-at-home mom phase, she is excited to rejoin the workforce in education, continue work on Vivienne's PTO Board, and find new ways to contribute at UUCP. Vivienne, almost four years old,

*Continued next page*

loves her new preschool, gymnastics, books, music, and spending time with family at the zoo or science center. The whole family has loved meeting so many people at UUCP, and feels blessed to be a part of such an amazing community.



Melinda McClement is a mother of two daughters and grandmother of three whose family moved to Phoenix about 20 years ago. She retired several years ago from the printing industry as a customer service/shipping manager. Melinda began visiting UUCP with her mother, a regular attendee, and enjoyed the sermons and fellowship. She is really glad to be part of a church group who is so open to all and tries to help with social injustice.



Jacque, Bob and Penelope Davis moved to Tempe in January from Nashville, TN. They quickly found a home at UUCP, and Penelope is enrolled in the UU Early Education Cooperative Preschool, where Bob is a teacher. Bob enjoys playing music in the Dissidents and watching documentaries and horror films. Jacque is a mathematician and in her off time enjoys cooking and riding her beach-comber bicycle around town. They enjoy camping, spending time outdoors as a family, and spending time at UUCP. □

## — TRUTH —

There is a world of difference between truth and facts. Facts can obscure truth.

— Maya Angelou

I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. This is why right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant.

— Martin Luther King, Jr.

*When I despair, I remember that all through history the way of truth and love has always won. There have been tyrants and murderers and for a long time they seem invincible, but in the end, they always fall—think of it always.*

— Mohandas K. Gandhi

If you would be a real seeker after truth, it is necessary that at least once in your life you doubt, as far as possible, all things.

— Rene Descartes

*Never be afraid to raise your voice for honesty and truth and compassion against injustice and lying and greed. If people all over the world....would do this, it could change the earth.*

— William Faulkner

## January Worship Theme: **Truth**

*Services bring our community together at 9:30 AM & 11:15 AM*

January 3: *A Soul's Truth for the New Year*

Service Leaders: Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray and Lynne Haeseler

Rev. Susan and Lynne Haeseler will blend poetry, music, reflection and ritual together for an intentional meditative and reflective start to the New Year. What intention, what truth, do you wish to burn more brightly in your life this New Year?

January 10: *Putting Truth Together*

Service Leader: Rev. Terry Sims

Most of the time, I see contradictions, paradoxes, absurdity; pieces of truth that divide us and keep us in conflict with ourselves and each other. But every once in a while, briefly, I feel that we might be on the verge of taking it all in and putting it all together into a larger truth we're hoping and living for.

*Rev. Sims is the Minister of the UU Church of Surprise. As part of an effort to bring the valley UU congregations closer together in partnership, the ministers of three congregations are trading pulpits this Sunday. Come welcome Terry Sims to UUCP and join in this collaborative effort across our congregations.*

January 17: *Unarmed Truth and Unconditional Love*

Service Leader: Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said he believed that "unarmed truth and unconditional love" would in the end have the last word. How do we hear his words today as a vital call to continue to pursue and speak unarmed truth and live and share unconditional love in the world?

January 24: *Listening to Powerful Truth*

Service Leader: Emrys Staton

Speaking truth to power is a courageous act that exemplifies the bold spirit of social justice movements. With major protest movements seizing the whole world, much truth is being spoken through speeches, videos, social media, protests, blogs, and other venues. Who is listening to all this truth-telling? How does the side of power hear and respond to truth?

January 31: *To Be Determined*

Service Leader: Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray



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