



# Horizons Journal

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix

September 2017



## Welcoming the New (*well, maybe, sort of??*)

Reverend Margret A. O'Neill

Interim Lead Minister

As I think about our theme of Welcoming, I recognize that one of the most challenging things to welcome into our lives is change.

I specialize in facilitating intentional change, and even for me, the process can sometimes be overwhelming. There are many transitions in our lives, and this summer was a whirl of transitional activity as I prepared to begin my two-year interim ministry at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix. I made my first connections here when I visited in late June, right after the UUA Presidential election, even as I was packing up my belongings and saying good-bye to the fine folks at the UU Society of Schenectady, where I served three years of

interim ministry with them. Then I drove home to St. Louis where I keep a small condo apartment, had a very brief two weeks of respite and reconnection there, and then my cat Callie and I piled into the car for the rather long two-day drive to Phoenix. Unloading (with the help of amazing UUCP volunteers), unpacking, settling in, meeting people.... It really has been a whirlwind time.

Since beginning my ministry here at UUCP on August 1, I have attended meetings and discussions, social gatherings and worship services, beginning to know the congregation and its ways of doing things. I am an intentional interim minister, and my commitment is to work with the congregation in this time of transition to energize and

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## Full Speed Ahead

Vince Waldron

President, Board of Trustees

Although the weather remains hostile this month, our welcoming theme could not be more appropriate. I hope you have had a

chance to meet and welcome our transitional minister, Margret O'Neill. If not, please take the opportunity to do so after Sunday service. I know she wants to meet as many members as possible during these first few weeks. At the time of this writing, Margret has been with us for only a short time, but she has jumped in with both feet! When I dropped in for a visit the other day Margret was busily unpacking her books. Yet, in a few short weeks Margret has been working closely with the staff to understand their needs and responsibilities, attending a bunch of committee meetings, planning with our team of worship associates, and working with the Board of Trustees to outline the process for our transition to a new called minister.

I have already learned that Margret values listening and she is curious to learn more about our UUCP culture and history. At the same time, as a professional transitional minister, Margret brings wisdom and experience to us. I can tell already that she will guide us with love and care through the transition process. She will invite us to join in genuine dialogue as we assess where we have been as a congregation and where we hope to go under the leadership of a new called minister.

On the same theme, I am pleased to welcome a talented group of new members to the UUCP board of trustees. Elected at our June congregation meeting, they are: Mary Dawes, Tony Banegas, and Sarah Moore. They join an outstanding group of returning leaders, including Karin Quinn, Ceyshé Napa, Jim Allen, Rajeev Arora, and our youth representative, Katie Quinn. Another youth representative will join us soon. I want you to know that

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## Growing into Our Vision of Radical Inclusion

Benjie Messer

Music Director

Last fall, to work toward being radically inclusive, our congregation opened the fall with a series of Identity Nights: one night on religious heritage, one on gender, and one on race. Each night, we met in separate rooms based on that aspect of our identities (e.g., as Christian-heritage people, women, or white people), and spent two hours sharing and listening confidentially with others in our group. More than 90 people participated in at least one of these evenings. I spearheaded this effort, with the backing of the staff and the help of ten UUCP members who facilitated the groups. As I gathered feedback afterwards, attendees reported forming real connections with others in the community, and many held up these nights as examples of how our congregation was already growing into its vision of welcome and radical inclusion.

It may seem counter-intuitive that we separated ourselves according to our differences, when our ultimate goal is to include and welcome each other across our differences. But because aspects of identity are used as pretexts for societal oppression, this separation is an important first step towards unity. For example, when men and women try to discuss sexism together, their own sexism and internalized sexism can derail the conversation and get in the way of backing each other. Thinking separately about the gendered aspects of our lives, as men and as women, creates “safe spaces” in which each group can recover from their hurts around sexism and clarify their thinking. We need to hear each other’s perspectives, of course, but working separately gives us connections and clarity that we’ll need in order to come back together outside of the oppression.

So we’re doing it again! Just like before, this fall’s Identity Nights will be on three successive Thursdays from 7:00-9:00 pm, immediately after the Community Night meal. On September 21, we’ll look

at our lives through the lens of sexual orientation and homophobia, with straight folks in the Sanctuary and LGBTQF folks (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and formerly identified) in the Johnson Room. On September 28, we’ll look at our lives through the lens of socioeconomic class and classism, with particular emphasis on how we grew up. Folks who grew up poor and working-class will meet in the Sanctuary, folks who grew up middle-class will meet in the Johnson Room, and folks who grew up upper-middle-class and upper-class-elite will meet in Annex B. And on October 5, because racism is such a key division in our society, we’ll meet again based on race, with white people in the Sanctuary and people of the global majority (people of color) in the Johnson Room.

People with mixed, blended, or changing identities are fully welcome in every group they share an identity with. For example, on the night

*...because aspects of identity are used as pretexts for societal oppression, this separation is an important first step towards unity.*

about race, if you have sometimes identified as white and sometimes identified as a person of color, you can choose to attend either group. In this case, you might want to attend the group that you would feel more likely to be understood by, when sharing how you’ve noticed race in your own life.

Socioeconomic class is particularly confusing for most of us. There’s no clear line between upper and middle class or middle and working class life, and many other identities affect how class “looked” in our family of origin. Many of us have been personally influenced by multiple class backgrounds, or have moved from one economic class to another during our childhood. Just like with any other blended background, instead of trying to fit

yourself into a category, just choose the group where you'd most enjoy telling your own story, and know that almost everyone there will feel that they don't quite fit either.

Thank you for taking on this brave, difficult work with us! It isn't always easy, but it pushes us toward becoming the radically inclusive community we imagine—toward being able to welcome each other more fully across our differences. □

## *Sing* with our choir just for a week

Open rehearsal:  
Wednesday, September 7  
7:00-9:00 pm in the Sanctuary

One service:  
Sunday, September 11  
with brief rehearsal before

No commitment  
or musical background necessary!

All ages welcome, childcare provided  
during rehearsal by request.

## Presentation: Chispa Campaign for Clean School Buses

Sunday, August 27, 11:45-1:15

The UUCP Green Sanctuary Group will host Chispa, a community organization affiliated with the League of Conservation Voters, to give a presentation about their campaign to use money from the Volkswagen settlement to purchase clean emissions school buses. Arizona will receive \$53 million that can be spent at the discretion of the governor. Chispa is asking the state to use this money to replace diesel buses in school districts with high childhood asthma rates. Snacks will be provided.

Green Sanctuary at UUCP is being revived in order to bring environmental issues more into the central focus of our justice or social action efforts. The earth has been oppressed by human activities. And those least responsible (the poor and minorities) have been most affected. We, therefore, work with community partners including Chispa, the Earth Care Commission of the AZ Faith Network, UUJAZ, UUA's Commit to Respond and the AZ Interfaith Power and Light to take action on issues locally, statewide, nationally and internationally. Our main goals are to educate and advocate. We also plan to help in the Maryland School garden.

We meet on the second Tuesday night each month, in Annex B, at 6:30 pm. All are welcome, and light refreshments are served. The next meeting is September 12, and we hope to see you. For more information, please contact Green Sanctuary chair, Laurel Hardin, at [laurelbhardin@gmail.com](mailto:laurelbhardin@gmail.com).

## A Saguaro's Greeting

Emrys Staton

Director of Pastoral Care & Justice Ministries

**W**elcome home! is one of my favorite things to hear. Whether I'm walking through the front door of my actual home at the end of the day, or in other contexts, like when I arrive for a week of camp at DeBennville Pines, it's nice to receive (or offer) an enthusiastic welcome.

At UUCP, we have often said that the congregation serves as our spiritual home. On Sunday mornings, and whenever you're here throughout the week, I hope that you feel welcomed and that you're at home.

For me, the desert is another form of home, both geographical and spiritual. The Sonoran plants and animals are familiar to me, the seasons bring comfort. While Unitarian Universalism is my religious identity, and the teachings of Buddhism form the core of my spiritual practice, it is a strong connection to the desert that sustains and grounds me.

As we welcome our congregation back for a new year, we are adding a desert flavor to our usual list of monthly themes. For September, the saguaro

other desert birds, including wrens and elf owls, will move in. Saguaros are the high rise lofts of the desert.

Their spring blossoms are pollinated by the lesser long-nosed bat, and the burgundy red fruits split open to reveal a sweet, sticky flesh

eagerly eaten by doves (look for the pink bird poop on your windshield to know when they are ripe).

Using their ribbed, outer skin, a saguaro can expand and contract, allowing them to drink hundreds of gallons of water during the summer and winter rains to keep them alive through the dry months in between. They do their photosynthesis during the day, and respire at night, which minimizes water loss.

As co-habitants with these Sonoran giants, may we be open to receiving lessons from them, learning from their perseverance and their elegance. May our roots be strong, our breath be intentional, our reserves expand and contract as needed. When times have been difficult for me, I've been known to go and just sit next to an elder saguaro for a while, seeking its counsel. And I always look forward to seeing saguaros when I return from a trip away from the desert.

We all have a role in welcoming each other to our spiritual home at UUCP, especially as we welcome a new minister to our community, as we welcome new visitors who may be discovering us for the first time, and as we welcome back all who are part of this community. May we all be like a desert full of saguaros, our arms outstretched, exclaiming, "welcome home!" □



*May our roots be strong, our breath be intentional,  
our reserves expand and contract as needed.*

cactus is included alongside the theme of "Welcome."

We have a few saguaros on our 10 acres of land at UUCP. Most are young, still only a single column. A saguaro typically begins to grow arms around seventy or eighty years old. When you see a large saguaro with dozens of arms, it has certainly survived a couple centuries of life in the extremes of our desert climate.

One of the taller saguaros on the property is home to a few families of birds throughout the year. Gila woodpeckers are the only ones that can bore into the flesh, and the cactus responds by creating a scab tissue that seals the hole into a cozy home. When the woodpeckers are done with these homes,

## Our Whole Lives (OWL)

Our Whole Lives is our comprehensive lifespan sexuality education programming, which provides honest, accurate information. Through OWL, we work to dismantle stereotypes and assumptions, build self-acceptance and self-esteem, foster healthy relationships, and create strong, supportive communities. (More information at <http://www.uua.org/re/owl>.)

This Year UUCP Children's Ministry will be offering three OWL Levels:

- Baby OWL: This class is open to students who have completed kindergarten
- OWL Junior: Geared to students enrolled in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade
- OWL: 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders are invited enroll

All OWL classes have limited space. Registration will occur on-site during Children's Ministry Orientation on September 10. If you are unable to attend orientation, contact [KatieResendiz@phoenixUU.org](mailto:KatieResendiz@phoenixUU.org).

## Children's Ministry Orientation

September 10, 11:30 am  
*directly after In-Gathering service*

Join UUCP Children's Ministry Committee to Learn about our 2017-2018 Programs. Children (newborn through high school graduation) and parents are invited to:

- See your friends!
- Learn about our Studio and Age-based programming
- Experience our new Tinker Class, make something amazing!
- Set up one-on-one meetings with the Director of Children's Ministry
- Register for classes
- Get your 2017 Revolutionary Education T-shirt

*For more information on this year's Children's Ministry offerings, see pages 6-7.*

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The soul should always stand ajar, ready to welcome the ecstatic experience.

Emily Dickinson

*I had crossed the line. I was free; but there was no one to welcome me  
to the land of freedom. I was a stranger in a strange land.*

Harriet Tubman

There is no hospitality like understanding.

Vanna Bonta





## Welcome to Children's Ministry 2017-18!

Katie Resendiz

Director, Children's Ministries

This year, our Children's Ministry programming at UUCP continues to grow and expand the boundaries of kids' experiences on campus. Last year, the Studio system was a great success in student involvement, teacher enthusiasm, and family commitment. This year, we push further and ask for our community to begin to see children's time on campus on Sundays, not as Sunday School, but instead, as worship. Adopting the language of "Children's Worship" reminds us that our youngest community members come to UUCP for the same reasons we all do. They are here to explore and deepen their spiritual experiences in the world.

Our Children's Ministry programming is intended to create community, experience wonder, and support each child's search for meaning. Our religious education offerings are tailored to the needs of each age group. In an effort to be *radically inclusive*, Sunday School classes are open to all children. If you or your child require specific accommodations or have questions about programming, please contact Katie Resendiz at [KatieResendiz@phoenixuu.org](mailto:KatieResendiz@phoenixuu.org).

### Nursery-Preschool

Our Nursery and Preschool programs offer space for play-based learning and early faith development. Staff help children embody the 4<sup>th</sup> principle, "a free and responsible search for truth and meaning," by creating an atmosphere that is encouraging, safe, and intriguing. Our youngest community members, newborn through year two, are provided a quiet and comfortable nursery to play, eat, and rest.

### Pre-K

The Pre-Kindergarten classroom at UUCP provides a protected space for youngsters to begin their path of faith development. Structured much like a tradition-

al preschool class, the students enjoy circle time, stories, crafts, and games as they learn about the Seven Principles, the monthly themes, and the community.

### Elementary Age

During *first service*, our Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> graders experience our congregation's monthly theme through art, music, conversation, cooperation, and play. In contrast to the demands of the school week, Sunday School at UUCP offers faith development through a studio approach. Each Sunday, students are offered a choice of three studios. In a given month this may include painting, sports, music, tie-dye, storytelling, and craft, each providing a unique approach to the monthly theme. Every studio is designed to give children the opportunity to demonstrate leadership, express opinions, and experience community.

*Second service* sees worship through the eyes of the tinker. Children are asked to explore monthly themes through bravery, creativity, and gumption. This space is a multiage studio designed for students in kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Each Sunday children are presented with the theme story, materials related to the story, and a theme challenge. This space gives kids a more individualized opportunity to find the Seven Principles in their lives.

### Middle School Youth

#### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

This year we launch a new specialized program for 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Acknowledging the transition to middle school, this program will offer three separate courses throughout the year. The class will begin the year examining race and the history of civil rights in the U.S. Winter session will be based on the Explorers

scouting model, as youth develop their role in protecting the earth. The year will end with an eight-week OWL unit focusing on puberty and body development.

## **7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Young people in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades are eligible to participate in OWL, a nine-month comprehensive health education curriculum (details below).

## **High School Youth - YRUU**

The 9<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> grade students meet on Sundays at 10:30 am in Annex C (Soulstice). High school-age UUs put our faith into action every day by daring to be real, showing acceptance and support, leading with courage, and acting for justice. YRUU sessions include socialization, check-in, work on the monthly theme, faith development, and community building.

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**“Children’s Worship”** reminds us that our youngest community members come to UUCP for the same reasons we all do. They are here to explore and deepen their spiritual experiences in the world.

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## **Our Whole Lives (OWL)**

Our Whole Lives helps participants make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health and behavior. With a holistic approach, Our Whole Lives provides accurate, developmentally appropriate information about a range of topics, including relationships, gender identity, sexual orientation, sexual health, and cultural influences on sexuality. The OWL program prepares youth for a healthy personal relationship and understanding of sexuality. For more information, visit the UUA website: <http://www.uua.org/re/owl>.

### *2017-2018 OWL Offerings:*

Kindergarten – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: Fall six-week class

5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade: Spring eight-week class

7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade: nine-month comprehensive course

## **Volunteers Ministering to Our Young People**

Our religious education programs are all staffed by dedicated volunteers who offer their passions, skills, beliefs and time into facilitating outstanding programming for youth. Training is provided and teachers serve as the congregation’s Children’s and Youth Ministry Committee. If you are interested in volunteering directly with children or in a support role, please contact Katie Resendiz. □

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strengthen the congregation as you prepare to call your next settled minister. Together we will help this congregation prepare to welcome the new, by exploring and addressing five focus areas of the interim time:

1. *Heritage*: reviewing how the congregation has been shaped and formed; encouraging and hearing all of the stories about the congregation's past, as the foundation upon which the present rests; embracing the rich variety that makes up the congregation.
2. *Leadership*: reviewing the congregation's ways of organizing and developing new and effective leadership; providing opportunities to explore the types of leadership needed, for new leaders to emerge, and for seasoned leaders to recommit or to refocus their gifts.
3. *Mission*: defining and redefining the sense of purpose and direction; clarifying the faith community's identity and core values; working to live into your mission and vision statements; reviewing strategic and tactical plans.
4. *Connections*: discovering, sustaining and revitalizing all the denominational, interfaith and community relationships the congregation builds outside of itself; re-assessing old links and considering new ones.
5. *Future*: developing the congregational profile that positions the congregation for its next ministry, including a healthy and honest assessment of the other focus points so that the congregation can turn its energy toward proactive decision-making for the future.

I am passionate about many things in congregational life: I am passionate about spiritual deepening and faith development, about social and environmental justice, about worship and music,

about membership integration and creating the strong bonds of community that sustain current members and embrace the newcomer. I am passionate about strong stewardship, good governance and shared ministry, and about helping a congregation cultivate its strengths and courageously address change.

Most of all, I am passionate about healthy congregational life, and about fully actualizing the potential for the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix to be a beacon for our faith, drawing in those who are seeking a place to live their values, and bringing light to the dark corners of our world. I look forward to discovering your dreams for the future, and supporting you in bringing those dreams to life. □

## Memorial Garden

*friends whose ashes were interred  
in our Memorial Garden  
this month in past years  
are still remembered*

Warren Herbert Amster  
William Blauvelt Bishop  
Phillip Kevin Bliklen  
Betty Halsema Foley  
Julia M. Fritts  
Sarah Patterson Ingersoll  
Betty K. Irvine  
Thomas Stephan Kole  
Erika Michaud  
Mary Ellen Mussman  
Arthur Wilfred Olsen  
William (Bill) Swineford





## Unicare News

Please lift up in your thoughts those in our community who share their transitions, sorrows, celebrations and wishes—that they may find strength in your love and friendship. For more information, or to get involved, contact Vicki Myers, Unicare Coordinator, at [unicare@phoenixuu.org](mailto:unicare@phoenixuu.org).

### Remembrances:

- Member Curt Yeager died July 22. A memorial service was held at UUCP as wife, and UUCP member, Barb Yeager was surrounded by family and friends.
- Previous member Jon Penrose died in July. Jon had been active at UUCP for many years and in the past year moved to California to be near family.
- Celso Salinas-Mireles, member and social justice activist, died in a motorcycle accident August 2. A visitation and memorial were held at UUCP. He is survived by wife and member Ileana Salinas-Mireles, his parents, family and friends.

### Healing Thoughts & Transitions:

- We send our thoughts to Ann Boppart, a past member, who suffered a stroke in July. At this writing, Ann continues to recuperate.
- Karen Kurtz had a very successful surgery in August and we are overjoyed with this news. She continues to stand strong against cancer, and we stand with you Karen. Congratulations to daughter Ariza, who started a new school.
- Duke Platter had knee surgery in August. We hope he fully recovers and is soon dancing with Susan.
- Please extend your healing meditations and kindness to those in our community whose hearts are heavy with grief or sadness. Many have experienced loss, are supporting others battling illness, or are burdened by life's transitions.

### Milestone Celebrations:

- Dale Domzalski shares that her son Joseph Dudo and his wife Christie are the proud parents of healthy baby boy, Rory, born Aug 9. And that makes Dale a new Grandma! She's beaming with joy.
- Congratulations to Tony and Kindred McEvoy on the birth of baby Reverie Delores McEvoy!
- On August 13 we wished a Happy 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary to our pianist Mary Coda and husband Frank.
- Stuart Rhoden shares the family joy that baby Maya is gaining strength and weight!
- Kudos to Dr. Jagdev Sharma as he was awarded an honorary lifetime member designation from The American Association of Avian Pathologists.

If you're not on the Unicare e-Group list but Interested in participating in a mealtrain to provide meals to members/friends when needed, contact [unicare@phoenixuu.org](mailto:unicare@phoenixuu.org). □

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the Board is committed to moving "full speed ahead" during this transitional time. Our UUCP community is energized by its vision and mission, and that may be especially true during this time, when national politics are so out of sync with our Unitarian Universalist values. We can't afford to lose a step as we build a community that is theologically diverse, radically inclusive, and justice centered.

So, I invite you to pitch in during this transitional period, to offer your talents to our transitional minister, our staff, and our community. We welcome your expertise, your volunteerism, and your financial support of this unique, thriving, liberal religious community. Thank you! □



## Hiking Season Kickoff—Flagstaff!

UUCP Outdoor Group

We are kicking off the fall hiking season with an offering in the Flagstaff area on September 23. Ed Cernek and Bonnie White will be camped in their RV at the Bonita Campground just outside Sunset Crater National Monument beginning no later than September 21 (possibly sooner!).

Todd and Stephanie Houghton, new members of UUCP who have a second home in Flagstaff, have offered to lead a beautiful hike on Saturday morning, September 23: Sunset Trail to Brookbank Trail Loop.

The campground is dry camping only. There are flush toilets. There are no showers or potable water available. You must bring your own water. It is a first come, first served park, and the best part is it has a reputation for not being crowded. Please see all the details on the campground here: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/coconino/recreation/camping-cabins/recarea/?recid=55072&actid=29>.

There are four hiking trails located in the Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument that range from very short and easy (wheelchair accessible) to longer and moderately difficult. Another more strenuous trail departs from the O'Leary Group Campground right next door that goes to O'Leary Lookout. These trails are through,

around, and overlooking the Bonita Lava Flow that happened a thousand years ago. The campground and surrounding areas are shaded by beautiful tall Ponderosa pine trees. The Stellar blue jays do their best to entertain around the campsite. This weekend truly offers something for everyone who likes the outdoors! The weather should be beautiful in late September for hiking.

After a day of hiking and/or hanging around camp on Saturday, Ed and I will bring the hotdogs with buns and all the fixin's for a well-earned cookout! Just bring a dish to share and we will enjoy an evening of fellowship and storytelling around the campfire. Of course, s'mores will be part of the deal!

The Bonita Campsite is \$24.00 per night (\$12 with a senior national park pass). Several people have indicated that they will not be camping but will be participating in all other activities. Keep in mind there are several hotels and motels in the Flagstaff area. It is about a 15- to 20-minute drive into a motel from the park.

You are not going to want to miss this fun weekend. Let's go hiking!

If you are interested in joining us, please RSVP to Bonnie White at 562-889-9404 or [bwhite95065@yahoo.com](mailto:bwhite95065@yahoo.com). You will receive details regarding the hike and be placed on the mailing list for updates. □

One of the marvelous things about community is that it enables us to welcome and help people in a way we couldn't as individuals. When we pool our strength and share the work and responsibility, we can welcome many people, even those in deep distress, and perhaps help them find self-confidence and inner healing.

Jean Vanier



## Campus Care Update

Heidi Parmenter

Business Administrator

### Property Management:

There is so much going on in regards to property maintenance and the Capital Campaign right now. At present I am looking for a new landscaping company to replace the one we have been using for over 11 years. There was a change in management and service has not been as good as it once was. As per my usual process in picking a service provider, I do research with the BBB, read online reviews, and if possible contact existing customers to hear what they say. The number of bids I collect depends service to service but for landscaping service I am collecting three bids. This year we are going to look closely at the irrigation system on the property and find out how much it will cost to replace it with a new and more efficient system. If anyone is interested in working with me on this project please let me know.

I am also collecting roof repair bids for the Annex buildings and working with DVLC (our elementary school tenant). DVLC is responsible for paying half of the roof repair per their room usage contract.

I'm looking for volunteers who can come in during the weekday before September 10, to do some deep cleaning on the doors, the restroom stalls, the soap dispensers, windows, etc. Let's get this place sparkling for Ingathering!



### Caring for our Spiritual Home:

Our Congregation is blessed with a beautiful campus on nine acres of land. It is our spiritual home and the home to two weekday schools. On Sundays we have between 150 and 300 people coming together to grow in spirit and Monday through Fridays we have between 50 to 70 children, teachers, and parents coming together to grow in knowledge and play.

Maintaining the buildings and the grounds requires help from everyone. When it comes to caring for this home, we are a big family working together to ensure that our home is welcoming and safe for everyone.

Here are some ways everyone can help care for our campus. Which of these ways will *you* care for our spiritual home?

- Report maintenance issues to the office. You can do this by writing down the maintenance issue on the Maintenance Repair List on one of the clipboards located in Office 2 or the Kitchen, or by contacting us in the office at 602-840-8400 or [heidiparmenter@phoenixuu.org](mailto:heidiparmenter@phoenixuu.org).
- Grab a ticket from UUCP Campus Care bulletin board in Office 2. Everyone is welcome to fill out a ticket for a campus care task that they think needs to be done and everyone is welcome to grab a ticket and complete the task.
- Campus Work Day & Potlucks! On the third Saturday of each month October through March from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, join volunteers as they work together on caring for our campus. These workdays include grounds cleanup, deep cleaning, painting, and minor repairs. □

## Community Nights & Identity Nights

resume Thursday, September 21

### Community Nights

This year, we continue our Community Night tradition every Thursday evening. Starting mid-September through mid-November for the fall season, and again starting in February through April for spring, join us at 6:00 pm in the Johnson Room, for food and friendship. Each week features the talents of the fabulous cooks in our congregation: two main dishes (one vegetarian), as well as sides, salad and bread. A donation of \$5 per adult, \$2 per child under ten, or \$10 per family, covers the cost of the meal. If you'd like to join, but have dietary restrictions or preferences, you are welcome to bring your own meal. If you enjoy contributing, but are unable to commit in advance, bringing a dessert or fruit to share is always welcome.

Following Community night, Thursday evenings feature many activities: small groups, adult faith development, Pathway to Membership, and more. Check out the UUCP website to sign up. Chalice Kids childcare is available 6:30-8:30.

If you have questions about Community Night, or you'd like to contribute as a Sous Chef (sides, salad, bread), contact [JanineGelsinger@phoenixuu.org](mailto:JanineGelsinger@phoenixuu.org).



### Identity Nights

For the second year, UUCP is holding a series of fall Identity Nights. These are opportunities for everyone in our community to build relationships with each other around aspects of our identities and backgrounds, and to more fully appreciate ourselves and our unique histories. The relationships that come out of these groups will make our community stronger. Please consider attending them all!

Each session is on a Thursday night from 7:00-9:00 pm, after the Community Night meal.

9/21: Working on gay oppression and sexual orientation

- Queer folks in the Sanctuary
- Straight folks in the Johnson Room (“queer” in this case refers to anyone who has a gender identity or sexual orientation that strays from rigid, gender-based stereotypes)

9/28: Working on class background and classism

- Raised-poor and raised-working-class in the Sanctuary
- Raised-middle-class in the Johnson Room
- Raised-upper-middle-class and raised-upper-class-elite in Annex B

10/5: Working on race and racism

- People of the global majority (People of color) in the Sanctuary
- White people in the Johnson Room

People with mixed and blended backgrounds (i.e., mixed race, mixed class backgrounds, or fluid sexual orientation) are welcome to attend any group that they have a connection to. This includes many of us. If you're not sure which group to attend, our staff members and facilitators are happy to listen as you think it through.

## UU Common Read 2017-18

The challenges, the call, and the opportunity of this moment in Unitarian Universalism and in the broader U.S. American society are compelling. Unitarian Universalists must be prepared and willing to look inward, examining, exploring, and acting to dismantle white supremacy culture in our association, in our congregations and groups, and in ourselves. At the same time, we must be prepared and willing to look outward and act to lift up Unitarian Universalist values in the political and civic challenges of our time.

After much deliberation, the Common Read Selection Committee has chosen *two* books for this year's Common Read:

1. *Centering: Navigating Race, Authenticity, and Power in Ministry*, edited by Mitra Rahnema (Skinner House, 2017), centers the stories, analysis, and insights of a number of Unitarian Universalist religious leaders of color as they explore how racial identity is made both visible and invisible in Unitarian Universalist communities.
2. *Daring Democracy: Igniting Power, Meaning, and Connection for the America We Want*, by Frances Moore Lappé and Adam Eichen, (Beacon Press, September 2017) lifts up the importance of democracy itself. It examines the anti-democracy movement that led to the Trump presidency, then offers a vision and call to action to save the democracy we thought we had and to take our civic life to a place it has never been.

*Centering* offers help with the inner work of today's Unitarian Universalism; *Daring Democracy* provides a vision and practical guidance for advancing our justice-making work in the public square. We invite you to make time to read both, and to work with others to organize discussion groups in your UU community.

Congregations, groups, and individuals may purchase both books from inSpirit: The UU Book and Gift Shop. *Centering* is available now and *Daring Democracy* will be available in early September; bulk discounts are available. A discussion guide for each book will be available for download by October 13, 2017. Each guide will include plans for both a single session and three more in-depth sessions for Unitarian Universalist congregations, groups, and individuals. Make plans for in-person discussion groups and/or find a reading buddy and begin informal conversations.





## **UU Congregation of Tucson Sponsors Tour to Santa Fe & Taos December 8-14**

New Mexico, Land of Enchantment! What could be more enchanting than a week in Santa Fe and Taos during the Christmas holiday season where hundreds of luminarias cast a magic glow? Join us for a really Cool Yule Tuur as UUs from the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tucson and friends make the journey to these two cities with exciting stops along the way. See Sandhill cranes at Bosque del Apache and beautiful Native American arts and crafts in the colonial marketplaces of Albuquerque, Taos, and Santa Fe. Explore the history of this amazing region with stops at outstanding museums! Peek into the past and the present Pueblo life with a visit to Taos Pueblo! Enjoy “taking the waters” at the thermal baths in Truth or Consequences, and visit Georgia O’Keeffe’s lodgings and studio at Ghost Ranch!

The bus leaves UUCT on Friday, December 8, and returns Thursday, December 14. Sign up now to ensure that you have a ticket to ride! Only \$849 per person for a double room or \$1,263 for a private room. If you need a roommate, let us know and we will match you up with another traveler who wants to share a room. We will also find home hospitality for out-of-towners for before and after the trip. There are only 30 spaces available for the Tuur. The complete itinerary and registration forms are online at [uuctucson.org](http://uuctucson.org) and can be mailed with your \$100 deposit to: UUCT, 4831 E. 22nd St., Tucson, AZ 85711, marked Attn: Mary Wiese. If you have questions, contact Julia Mehrer at [perujourney@gainbroadband.com](mailto:perujourney@gainbroadband.com) or Carolyn Saunders at [c\\_saunders1@msn.com](mailto:c_saunders1@msn.com).

Deadline for registration is September 18.

## **Join the Welcoming Ministry as an Usher!**

Would you like a reserved seat just for you on Sunday? Do you like helping to keep our community safe? Are you responsible with money? Calm in an emergency? Do you like to complete your service to the congregation once per month, during worship service when you are already here? If so... you may find a perfect fit as an Usher in our Welcoming Ministry!

If you are interested in learning more about becoming an Usher, there will be a kick-off party and orientation on Saturday, September 9, 1:00-4:00 pm at an offsite location. See Membership + Welcoming Ministries Coordinator, Janine Gelsinger, at the Welcome Desk in the lobby to sign up, or email her at [janinegelsinger@phoenixUU.org](mailto:janinegelsinger@phoenixUU.org).



## September Worship Theme: **Welcome / Saguaro**

***September 3 and 10, one service at 10:30 AM***

September 3: *Bread and Roses*

Service Leader: Benjie Messer

With widening income inequality and austerity measures around the globe, let us celebrate Labor Day by singing the labor music in our UU hymnals! In these beautiful songs of working people, we give thanks for the benefits of labor, grieve the harm it does, and shout for a better world.

September 10: *One World*

Service Leader: Rev. Margret A. O'Neill

Water is universal, eternal, ever-changing. Gathering for the traditional Water Communion to open the fall season, we reflect on our changing world, our emerging understandings of community, welcoming the new into our lives. Bring a small container of water from home or summer travels, or use water we provide here.

***September 17 and 24 begin our two-service season  
at 9:30 am and 11:15 AM***

September 17: *Transitions and Beginnings*

Service Leader: Rev. Margret A. O'Neill

Sometimes we find ourselves on a threshold, entering a time of discovery with unexpected potential for transformation. Welcoming the opportunity, we prepare to explore and celebrate the joy of new beginnings as we reconnect with the abundance of gifts and grace in our lives.

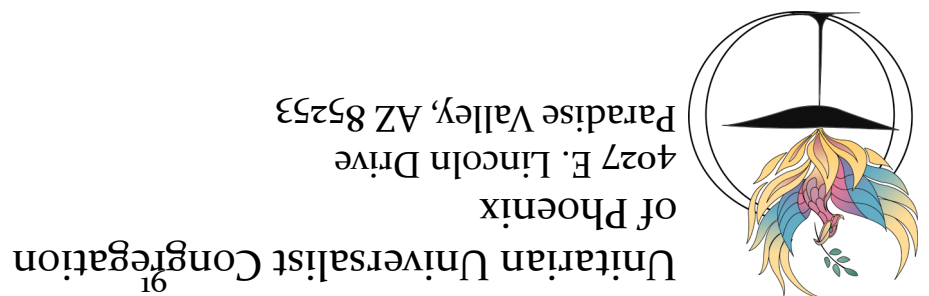
September 24: *Holy Days*

Service Leader: Rev. Margret A. O'Neill

In this time of High Holy days in the Jewish tradition, we are called to consider the integrity of our choices and actions in alignment with our values and commitments. How do we welcome the grace of atonement and the power of new beginnings into our lives?

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RADICALLY INCLUSIVE  
JUSTICE CENTERED

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF PHOENIX



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