



Horizons Journal

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix
December 2017



Light in the Darkness

Reverend Margret A. O'Neall

At this time of the Winter Solstice, especially on the December days when the weather is more often cooler and cloudy here in the desert, I find myself reflecting on what seems to be a growing darkness in the environment around me, and it is easy to feel an intensified inner darkness that seems to match the patterns of sun and weather. I am sure that is why there are so many celebrations of light in these winter days—we set the bright energy of candles in our windows, we decorate our homes, we create parties and celebrations to balance out the darkness of the season.

Each year, as we round the corner at Thanksgiving to head toward the December

celebrations, I notice people posting on Facebook their practices of gratitude and hope, offering daily reflections about something in their lives for which they are grateful, and the hope they have for the future. Gratitude is a positive emotion, receptive and appreciative, even as hope reaches up and out into the possibility that is yet to be. Sometimes, simply gazing at the mountains that surround us here in the valley, I am grateful for the sense of quiet stability they provide, reminded by their presence of the need for balance, to be both grounded and uplifted in these complex times.

And still . . . in recent weeks, no matter what our politics, we have come into a renewed awareness of the negative emotions and perspectives

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Think Like a Mountain

Emrys Staton

Director of Pastoral Care & Justice Ministries

Once read in some geology book that there will come a day, as the mantle and core of the earth slowly continue to cool, when tectonic forces will come to a halt. The plates of Earth's crust will sit still, no more earthquakes or volcanoes will be changing our landscape. When this happens, mountains will cease to form, and the surface of the earth will slowly erode into huge flat plains and gentle hills.

This far-fetched scenario of a featureless horizon is something that humans will unlikely be around to experience. But if we were, I wonder how we would be affected. Mountains have served us not only as important navigational markers, but also as sacred and spiritual sites, calling us to extreme adventures and inspiring stories that shape our worldviews.

During a recent trip to southern Arizona, I

hiked up the modest 4,687' Wasson Peak at the northern edge of the Tucson Mountain range. From this vantage, you can see mountains all around that each carried their own significance. To the north, Picacho Peak, both iconic and historic, juts out of the desert floor and serves as the reference point for one of the few Civil War battles that occurred in the territory of Arizona. The Silverbell Mountains just west of Picacho are slowly being hollowed out by a large copper mine.

The Santa Catalinas and Rincon Mountains provide Tucson with scenic backdrops and hundreds of miles of recreational trails. Controversy in these ranges continues as wildlife authorities hunt and kill mountain lions, both to "protect" hikers and to bolster efforts of reintroducing bighorn sheep. Looking southwest, Kit Peak hosts a complex of world-renowned telescopes and astronomical research

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Property Management & Construction Update

Heidi Parmenter

Business Administrator

Getting approval from Town of Paradise Valley for the new plan plus the actual permits looks like it may take longer than we had expected. So construction is not expected to start until sometime in the new year. While we wait, Porter Construction is getting subcontractors lined up and the construction budget set so that as soon as we have the permit from the Town we can start working! No worries, we will let everyone know in advance and will work to minimize interference with all activities on our campus.

Luckily, maintenance work on the property doesn't have to go through any permitting process and we've gotten quite a bit done in the past few weeks.

ABM, our landscaping service provider, has now done a full rotation around the campus and hopefully you all have noticed the improved appearance of our grounds. Sadly, the major water line that I wrote of last month has had yet another leak, in a different spot. I am hoping that we can get this waterline completely replaced when we remodel and pave the upper parking lot. In the meantime, the leak has been fixed and upgraded pipe has been installed in the section affected.

The Nursery doors now have windows to allow visibility into the room while keeping the doors shut. This is an important part of a Safe Congregation Policy.

Several of the handicap access buttons were inoperable and now have been fixed.

The carpets in the hallway, lobby, sanctuary, music office, stairs, upstairs offices and landing, and Offices 1 & 2 have all been professionally cleaned recently.

After collecting a couple of different bids from plumbers, I have once again chosen ABM to perform an annual plumbing service for us. They will thoroughly clean the pipes and drains for all the urinals on the property to help with the reoccurring

backup problem we have.

At the November 18th Work Day, several people came to help out around the campus. Jake Danforth led a project to map our entire electrical circuit and got about a quarter of the way done so far. This is a big undertaking for which we have no documentation and will help immensely with future improvements and maintenance on the campus.

Kat Dickson re-organized and labeled the mailboxes in Office 2, which is another time consuming task that makes a difference.

Levi Keesecker started wiping down the restroom stalls to make them sparkly clean.

Work days for the rest of the program year are on the following Saturdays: December 16, January 20, February 17, and March 17. □

Memorial Garden

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

Jane Louise Baker
Jo Ann Davy
Agnes Hetebrueg Ericson
Mary Louise Grobe
Steven Knight
Robert Sclater
Ann Sclater
Anita Farese Silverthorn
Archie Huffman Walker
Margreta Jakobsen Woods

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in our society, and I think I am not alone in feeling both sorrow and concern for this nation, and especially for those most vulnerable among us. In that awareness, I find that simple appreciative gratitude for the blessings of my life is not sufficient to sustain my hope. Seeking words to express my thoughts about this, the word that comes to me is "resolve." In these dark days, I feel forming within me a resolute sort of firmness grounded in my deepest values and commitments—a growing sense that these times call for me to be resolute in my determination to do what I can to educate, to heal, to bring light to the darkness of hatred, bigotry, institutional racism and systemic oppression. If I speak and act with a resolute spirit, I may be able to counter some of the darkness that comes from fear and anxiety in the face of global changes and human misery.

As we move through these darkest days and find our way back into the light, I wish for us each and all the blessings of the season, a spirit of gratitude, and the gift of hopeful resolve as we face an uncertain future. We are blessed to be part of a faith tradition that supports and coaches us into a proactive stance toward the healing of the world. May we live resolutely into the teachings of our faith and the commitments of our principles, as we work to create the world of hopeful promise for all. It is my deep pleasure to join you in this beautiful work. □

Blue Christmas

Saturday, December 23 at 6:00 PM

There is much joy in the holiday season, but it can also be a painful time for those who have experienced loss. This gentle service will offer a space of holding, with music, spoken word and meditative ritual to provide support in the sadness that can be present among the celebrations of this time. Child care will be provided.



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.

Remembrances:

Linda Vance, Larry Reed and their family mourn the death of Linda's son Brian, who died after his battle with cancer. Linda and her family welcome the grace and comfort of their UUCP community.

Healing Thoughts & Transitions:

We lift up Ellie Murphy and husband Bob, as his health declines. Ellie is cherishing every moment with Bob.

Continued healing and well wishes to Bill Parker, as he continues the slow recovery from a broken leg.

Joys & Celebrations:

We celebrate with Karen Kurtz as her doctors have found no evidence of cancer. Being cancer free, she is grateful for her family and community. She sends her thanks to all who supported her, and Ariza, in this journey. We rejoice with you Karen!

As we reflect on the past year please take a moment to send out hope to those who have experienced loss, strength and healing to those in transition, and for more joy and love to all.

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. □



On Hope, Opportunity & Showing Up

Sarah Moore

Member, Board of Trustees

Now that the weather here in Phoenix has turned pleasant and we desert dwellers emerge from our air conditioned homes and venture outdoors, the holidays are swiftly approaching. Our topic for December, fittingly, is Hope—a common theme around the holiday season and especially leading into the New Year.

Those of you who know me well also know that pessimism, cynicism, and sarcasm are all permanently ingrained in my DNA. So why did I choose to write for this month when the topic is Hope? Because “Hope is the thing with feathers”? Personally, I always thought Emily Dickinson was too tragic to be a good role model without a shot of caffeine and a good therapist.

I wanted to write about Hope because this congregation gives me hope. Being on the Board of Trustees at this time is a bigger undertaking than I expected, but I have already found everyone involved in the running of UUCP to be incredibly smart, helpful, and driven to succeed. Every person I meet and get to know has their own gifts that contribute to the betterment of our community. I could rehash any number of platitudes about how remarkable UUCP is, but we don’t have enough space for that.

It can be hard to feel like there is any hope after the year we’ve had. From the 2016 election to mass shootings happening more and more frequently, it can be just plain depressing to turn on the news due to the perception that things simply are not going to improve in our society. But on the subject of Hope, sometimes it’s just better to let the experts do the convincing that all is not lost. So take it away, Rebecca Solnit:

Hope locates itself in the premises that we don’t know what will happen and that in the spaciousness of uncertainty is room to act. When you recognize uncertainty, you recognize that you may be able to influence the outcomes—you alone or you in concert with a few dozen or several million others. Hope is an

embrace of the unknown and the unknowable, an alternative to the certainty of both optimists and pessimists. Optimists think it will all be fine without our involvement; pessimists take the opposite position; both excuse themselves from acting. It’s the belief that what we do matters even though how and when it may matter, who and what it may impact, are not things we can know beforehand. We may not, in fact, know them afterward, either, but they matter all the same, and history is full of people whose influence was most powerful after they were gone.

Over the last year, Rebecca Solnit has become a prominent voice of the current zeitgeist, and in this moment at UUCP, I think her words are prophetic. For the last year and a half, since Reverend Susan announced her candidacy for UUA president, our congregation has been in a state of uncertainty. Things remain uncertain, but now the room to act is wide open to us.

This is what I love about the theme of Hope.

“Hope” is the thing with feathers -
That perches in the soul -
And sings the tune without the words
-
And never stops - at all -

And sweetest - in the Gale - is heard -
And sore must be the storm -
That could abash the little Bird
That kept so many warm -

I’ve heard it in the chilliest land -
And on the strangest Sea -
Yet - never - in Extremity,
It asked a crumb - of me.

Emily Dickinson

It is an opportunity, a way of looking at what we can do to influence the future of the congregation, the UUA, Phoenix, and our wider world. We have to take action, though, because Hope on its own is never going to be enough. Fortunately, I have seen this congregation in action. I have done more protesting this year than I have ever done before in my life, and UUCP always turns up when there's a chance to make an impact with our presence. The members of this congregation—pessimists and optimists alike—are showing up and making their voices heard.

In our own congregation, there are a great deal of changes that will take place over the next

two years. We are hard at work with two very major projects: our Capital Campaign & Construction project, and our search for a new settled minister. While there are committees in place, both of these projects still require active participation from every member of the congregation, no matter how great or small that participation is. Every little drop in the bucket, every bit of feedback we get is important. Your personal effort could be precisely what we need to achieve our goals.

It is that hope for a bright future that sustains our forward momentum as we continue with the work ahead. I hope that everyone embraces this great opportunity to put their own stamp on our future. □



Help Build a Better UUCP Library!

Help us expand and upgrade our library to be a better resource for our community. We are looking for donations of matching bookshelves as well as books (Subjects: Family Life, History, Inspiration, Justice, and Theology). If you are interested in helping with this project, or have shelves or books to donate, please contact Rosemary Roenfanz at rom019@q.com.

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facilities. In the next range over, the unmistakable outline of Baboquivori Peak pierces the sky, where the creator god of the Tohono O'odham people, I'itoi, resides in a small cave in the east side of the sacred mountain.

Conservationist Aldo Leopold exhorts us not only to appreciate mountains, but to "think like a mountain," taking a longer and more comprehensive view of the harmony of ecosystems. In *A Sand County Almanac*, he wrote about the impact of unchecked deer populations as the result of hunters killing off nearly all the wolves in the western mountains. A healthy mountain gladly welcomed the chilling howl of the wolf.

I think of Leopold's advice often, repeating it as a mantra. When the day-to-day buzz of the world feels overwhelming, the mountains provide a role model of calm and patience. Not that a mountain doesn't suffer or is completely unconcerned with the activity on and around it, but that it exists with such confidence in spite of it all.

In September, I stood in a fire lookout tower on top McFadden Peak in the Sierra Anchas east of Phoenix. Gleefully looking out in each direction, I took in the spectacular views while also contemplating my own insignificance. I tried to imagine this landscape a few hundred million years down the road, weathered down and smoothed over. The Mologollon Rim just a low bluff across the horizon and the pointed peaks of the Superstitions long washed away into the desert floor. Perhaps a shallow sea will one day wash in and cover the ground I stood on, now 7,135 feet above sea level.

But for now, in this geologic blip of time occupied by our lives, I promise to enjoy and experience the mountains as they are, inspired by their majesty and comforted by their presence. When I feel like things in life are beyond hope, out of control, in chaos, I take a deep breath and say to myself, "think like a mountain." □

Pathway to Membership

Saturday, January 13

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

(lunch served)

Pathway to Membership is a class that invites you to meet with other folks considering membership, and hear more from ministers, leaders, and recently joined members about what it means to be a member of our congregation. You will have the opportunity to learn about the history of Unitarian Universalism and UUCP, get to know each other in groups, and ask questions.

The class ends with an invitation to join by signing the membership book and pledging your support. There is no pressure to join. We recognize membership is a commitment and we hope people will take their time before joining.

Register at the welcome table in the lobby, on the UUCP website, or contact janinegelsinger@phoenixUU.org.



The Pleasure of Community

Benjie Messer

Music Director

Winter is the season for outdoor festivals in Phoenix! As a musician, I've played at hundreds of Phoenix "festivals."

Unsurprisingly, given the way our world is set up, most are themed pop-up malls put on primarily for profit, not events created to support a community. Beer festivals are events for people to buy and sell beer. Arts festivals are events for people to buy and sell art. Music festivals, which I love, are essentially places where people pay to hear music.

I also often got to play at city festivals and block parties that were more community-oriented, and often those were centered around free activities. For example, the Phoenix Fourth of July festival is centered around fireworks that are free for all to see. Even though Phoenix is a large, loose community, and most people at the Fourth of July festival didn't know most other people there, it still felt like I was entertaining a community, and it felt different. Playing at private for-profit festivals was often fun, but there usually wasn't much for attendees to do other than buy things. I often left private events grateful that I had been paid to be there, rather than having paid to get in myself with hopes of having fun.

Christmas, of course, often becomes the biggest for-profit festival of the year. For months every winter, everyone with something to sell exploits the gift-giving traditions of Christmas, urging us to buy, buy, buy. Retail businesses hire

seasonal staff to handle the "Christmas rush." Wikipedia's "Economics of Christmas" article details the surge in sales, hiring and advertising that happens every winter. Even those who love the holiday complain about merchants displaying seasonal decor and gifts earlier each year, so-called "Christmas creep."

One of the things I love about working at UUCP is the sense of it being a community. It's not a community divorced from capitalism, of course—your pledges pay my salary, which I am always grateful for—but when we come together for a Sunday morning service, I feel the pleasure of being part of a community. I don't ever feel that my job is just to keep you pledging. Maybe it's just a difference in my own perspective, but it seems clear to me that our congregation came together and sticks together for human reasons, and then deals with money as we need to, rather than the other way around.

I hope that our Christmas Eve services, like the rest of our big annual services, feel like this to you. I hope they express our wish to welcome everyone who walks in our doors, just as Mary and Joseph need to be welcomed in the Christmas story. I hope they express our wish to hold out hope for each other and for our world in the darkest times. I hope they give us a sense of joining together around a winter fire, sharing music and stories. I hope that even as we celebrate the biggest holiday of the most dominant religion in our country, we acknowledge and make space for all of our many religious and non-religious backgrounds. I hope that even if you don't know many people in our congregation, you can tell that you're in a community, with people who could potentially care about you if they got to know you. I hope it feels like a real festival—a community ritual—and that it's a break from the buying and selling in hopes of having fun. □

... it seems clear to me that our congregation came together and sticks together for human reasons, and then deals with money as we need to, rather than the other way around.



Welcome, New Members!

Please welcome these new members who recently joined UUCP!



Gayle Cordes left a corporate business career after 20+ years to pursue her interest in psychology and mental health. For the past 15 years, she has maintained a clinical practice in Scottsdale focusing on “post-traumatic growth.”

Raised in a Midwestern family, Gayle comes from a protestant tradition and is a long-time student of *A Course in Miracles*, having studied with Dr. Kenneth Wapnick. Her interests outside of work include yoga/meditation, reading “everything,” gardening, and “bucket list” travel with her son and daughter-in-law. She recently restarted piano lessons after a 50-year break.



Gary Dickson is the oldest of five children, born in San Diego but moved regularly (including time in Japan and Pensacola, Florida), as his father was a naval aviator. Adult life spent in San Diego and Stockton, California. He had a long career in local government, then retired in 2014 and moved

to Scottsdale. Gary has two grown children and a lovely wife (Kat) who is also a UU member. He loves the UU message of radical inclusion!



Bud Froelich-Freeman



Lora Gustafson



Mike and Eileen Paddock moved to Scottsdale from Boston in 2010 to be closer to Mike’s father, Norman. Mike is originally from the San Francisco Bay area, and Eileen is originally from Chicago. They met in Boston and married a year

later in Hawaii. Together, they own an executive recruiting business. Their son David lives in the Baltimore area. When not working, they enjoy hiking, traveling, music, movies and hanging out with friends, family and their dog, Cooper. They look forward to being part of this progressive and amazing UU community.

Jacob Barnum (not pictured)

Watch for These Special Services in December

Companions – A Pet Blessing Service for All Ages and Species

Sunday evening, December 3, 5:00-6:00 PM, Isabelle Johnson Room

This special Sunday evening all-ages service honors the pets in our lives. Pets are welcome, on leashes or in terrariums or carriers. Photographs of pets are also welcome, including beloved pets you hold in memory.

Blue Christmas

Saturday, December 23 at 6:00 PM

There is much joy in the holiday season, but it can also be a painful time for those who have experienced loss. This gentle service will offer a space of holding, with music, spoken word and meditative ritual to provide support in the sadness that can be present among the celebrations of this time. Child care will be provided.

Christmas Eve (three services)

December 24 – We will have one regular service at 10:30 AM this day and our annual Christmas Eve services will be at 5:30 PM and 7:30 PM with cookies and fellowship in between the services.

New Year's Eve (one service)

December 31 – We will have just one service at 10:30 AM on this New Year's Eve.

Gratitude for all who helped create the *Día De Los Muertos* service!

Sylvia Lemus Sharma acknowledges the many people who volunteered and/or brought items to contribute to the altars and *ofrendas* on October 29th.

Setup Team:

Jose Diaz
Phoebe Dubisch
Sarah Foerster
Jenny Jones
Joy Marx-Mendoza
Eric Muelstedt
Rev. Margret O'Neill
Katie Resendiz, Children's Ministries (marigolds & butterflies)
Ileana Salinas (special *ofrenda* tribute to Celso Mireles)
Sylvia Sharma, Setup Coordinator (lobby *ofrenda* and development of Celso Mireles sermon booklet)
Emrys Staton, Pastoral and Justice Ministries (*pan dulce*)
Julie Talbot
Julia Weil



Sanctuary clean up team:

Barbara and David Cawthorne
Jenny Jones
Benjie Messer, Music Director
Joanne Pamperin
Sylvia and Jagdev Sharma
Emrys Staton, Pastoral & Justice Ministries

A special thanks to the Music Director Benjie and the UUCP Choir who learned a butterfly song in Nahuatl: "*Hue Hue Papalotl*" for the together time butterfly tree ritual.

A special thanks to all those who participated by bringing their photos and sharing the memory of those who have passed as part of the indigenous Mexica tradition celebrating life still practiced today.

UUCP shared our extra marigolds with Zarco & Carmen Guerrero's Cultural Coalition to be used in their *Día de los Muertos* events with schools and the community.



UU Foundation Annual Reception

You are warmly invited to join us at a special reception of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix's Chalice Keepers legacy society. Come and meet members of the Unitarian Universalist Foundation Board and the Chalice Keepers.

Sunday, January 7, 2018
3:00-5:00 PM
at the home of
Jan Kaplan & Helen Walker
5533 W. Camino Vivaz, Glendale

The Congregation will be here to serve our children, grandchildren, and the wider community long after each of us is gone. The Unitarian Universalist Foundation of Phoenix maintains the Congregation's foundation funds and uses the power of time to invest and grow our gifts over generations to ensure that our beloved community grows and prospers into the future.

The legacy society is composed of people who have the foresight and wisdom to remember the

Congregation in their estate plans. Becoming a member of the Chalice Keepers legacy society is simple: just name the Congregation or the Foundation in your estate plans and let us know that you have done so.

We hope you'll join us on January 7 to learn more about this society and about information and programs you would like to see the Foundation offer in the coming year.

Please let us know if you plan to attend by January 2. If you would like more information about the Foundation please contact the Board at UUFP@phoenixuu.org.

Sincerely,

Diana Ashley, President
Don Weir, Treasurer
Terry Lockwood, Secretary
Robert Back
Jan Kaplan
Jan Wise
Rev. Margret A. O'Neill
Vince Waldron □



Upcoming Adult Faith Development Classes



Couples Enrichment

Facilitators: Bonnie White & Ed Cernek

Wednesday Nights, February 7 – March 14

6:45 PM – 8:45 PM in the Johnson Room

This workshop is for couples who want to work on their relationship. Couples of all genders, length of time together and relationship status (married, partnered, engaged, cohabitating or not) are welcome. Explore how to strengthen and rejuvenate your connection. Topics include healthy communication, respecting differences, resolving conflicts, healing past hurts, relating to your larger community. Couples also explore how the 7 principles of Unitarian Universalism can create a more compassionate and deepening connection to each other.

World Wisdoms in Dialogue

Facilitator: Gary Ezzell

2nd & 4th Thursdays from January – March

6:45 PM – 8:15 PM in Annex H

A six-part class to explore core teachings and understandings of different spiritual and religious traditions and how they relate to Unitarian Universalism. We will look at quotes, poetry, songs, and other literature from Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Indigenous, and Unitarian Universalism.

Boundary Setting & Negotiating

Facilitators: Mary Dawes and Natalie Fabert

Thursday, March 22

6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Two-hour workshop to learn and practice skills that you can apply in the workplace and in relationships. One essential part of healthy and productive relationships is establishing good boundaries. Boundaries can be rules and principles that guide you and establish what you will or won't allow in a relationship. Negotiation is a dialogue between people over one or more issues, intended to reach a constructive outcome. Developing these skills will reduce conflict and promote results that satisfy both/all participants.



Glitter, Balloon Cars & Baby Magnets: Adventures in Children's Ministry Katie Resendiz

Director, Children's Ministries

Children's Worship comes together each week through the work of the wonderful members of the Children's Ministry Team. Teaching, singing, playing, inventing, and being in community with the kids of UUCP provides a unique venue for spiritual growth and exploration for the adults involved. If you want to learn more about working with our kids, talk to Katie Resendiz or Carrie Lifshitz.

Jen—Dauntless Dame of Glitter and Glue

Jen has served in various roles in Children's Ministry over the past 11 years. Jen is OWL trained and has worked closely with our Coming of Age classes. This year she is the lead teacher for our Studio: MAKE, where she turns crafting materials into launching points for learning and living the principles, values, and history of our faith.

Why do you choose to work with the kids of UUCP?
Because they give me hope for the future!

What do you do when you're not fostering the revolution and raising the next generation of wonderfUUL commUUnity members?

I'm a music therapist currently working in the Rehab Department of the Forensic Campus at the Arizona State Hospital.

Ceyshe'—The Newest Wise OWL

Ceyshe' completed her OWL Facilitator training last year. This year she serves as the 7th and 8th grade class Pal, providing the kids with an important bridge to the adults working in the program.

Why do you choose to work with the kids of UUCP?
I choose to work with the young people of UUCP's OWL because I want to be a part of the process that helps them make healthy and educated choices in their life. I also hope that I can be a trusted resource for

them at any and all stages of their lives.

What do you do when you're not fostering the revolution and raising the next generation of wonderfUUL commUUnity members?

Listening to podcasts and audiobooks, looking for good huevos rancheros, Netflixing/Hulu'ing like it's my job, facilitating the awesomeness of my daughter.

Kathleen—Maven OWL

Kathleen has taught OWL for several years. When asked why she would want to talk to middle schoolers about sex she says. "Its so important for kids to have knowledge of healthy sexuality." When not helping our community kiddos build healthy relationships, she teaches at ASU, volunteers with 3rd graders at a Title I school, and enjoys traveling and reading.

Tiffany and Daniel—Celebrity Power Couple (Heroes to the littlest chalice children)

Having led Toddler and Infant care at UUCP for 13 years, Daniel and Tiffany have watched littles go to big and bigs go to college.

Why do you choose to work with the kids of UUCP?
Working with the kids at the UUCP is the best part of our week. We have watched lots of kids grow up through the UUCP. We love when the kids come back to visit. Room 15 tends to be a safe space for kids, teens and adults. We have actually gained really great friendships through working with the kids of UUCP.

What do you do when you're not fostering the revolution and raising the next generation of wonderfUUL commUUnity members?

We have two girls of our own. Izabella is 6 and Victoria is almost 1. Tiffany is a 7th and 8th grade math teacher. Daniel is a mortgage specialist. Daniel collects shoes and Tiffany loves to craft.

Phil—Iteration Creation Expert

Why do you choose to work with the kids of UUCP?
Kids still have knowledge that adults have forgotten—I love to be close to that knowledge. I’m constantly inspired by young people’s energy, enthusiasm, and spirit of learning. And because young people just tend to be more fun than us adults.

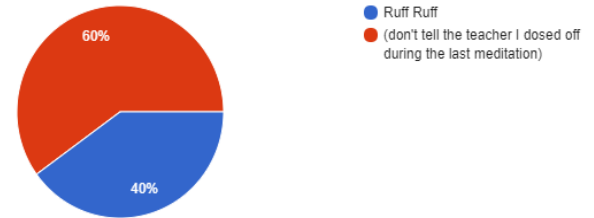
What do you do when you’re not fostering the revolution and raising the next generation of wonderfUUI commUUnity members?

Making lots of art, teaching the Critical Response Method, managing projects having to do with space exploration, teaching collaborative methods, and having coffee and conversation with people I love.

Important Things to Know about Our Children’s Ministry Team

Downward dog or Corpse Pose?

5 responses



What is Serving in Children’s Worship Like?

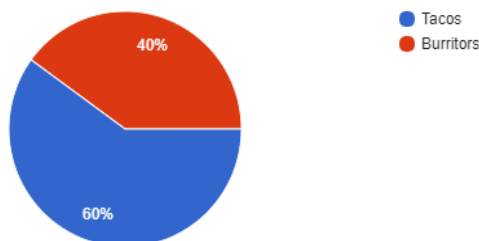
“One of my favorite Sundays was one during the summer when all of the teachers were out except for me and Francis so we took the whole bunch for a nature hike in our beautiful UUCP backyard. The children had a blast and Francis and I survived!”

“Most of my experiences involve kids inventing things, like hats with cups on their heads, balloon cars, tents that look like kittens, or tiny presents made of cloth.”

“Geoff (Anderla) really does like babies. When Geoff visits us in room 15 the kids love him and want to hug him. He pretends to run the other way.” □

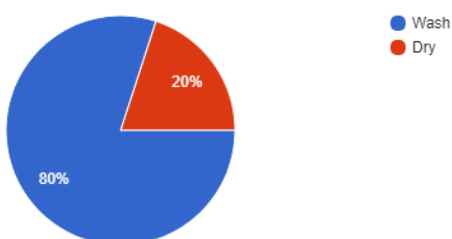
Tacos or Burritos?

5 responses



Wash the dishes or dry the dishes?

5 responses



December Worship Theme: **Hope / Mountain**

Special service times this month—please see details below

*American Sign Language interpreter available at second (11:15) service
on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month*

December 3, 9:30 AM & 11:15 AM: Waiting

Service Leader: Rev. Margret A. O'Neill

In this time of Advent, we feel the stirrings of hope below the surface, as in the growing dark we await the return of light to the world. Dedicating children into the care of this congregation, we celebrate the light that glows within.

December 3, 5:00 PM: Companions! A Pet-Blessing Service for All Ages & Species

Service Leader: Rev. Margret A. O'Neill

The creatures that share our homes and our lives are true companions. Those loving relationships transcend the boundaries of species in our own small corners of the interdependent web. We welcome and celebrate our furred, feathered, scaled and finned companions in gratitude and respect, and there will be a memorial table for photos and remembrances of pets that we have loved and lost.

December 10, 9:30 AM & 11:15 AM: The Mountain, Hope & Joy

Service Leader: Rev. Margret A. O'Neill

When challenging times leave us stony and closed, joy may not find a place to nest within us. Opening our hearts in this season of hope and love, we seek to deepen our capacity for emotional response to welcome all that life may offer.

December 17, 9:30 AM & 11:15 AM: The Longest Night

Service Leader: Rev. Margret A. O'Neill

Human communities throughout the northern hemisphere celebrate the winter solstice as a reawakening of the light—here in the desert, the quality of the light is subtly different as the longest night approaches. Together let us celebrate this ancient recognition of light returning to a darkened world.

With this faith we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day.

—Martin Luther King, Jr. *I Have a Dream* speech, Lincoln Memorial, August 28, 1963

December 24:

Morning: One Service, 10:30 AM: A Season of Miracles

Service Leader: Rev. Margret A. O'Neill

With story and song we enter into the spirit of the season, welcoming new possibilities with the miracle of birth.

Christmas Eve Services

5:30 PM: Family Service & Non-traditional Nativity Play

Service Leaders: Rev. Margret A. O'Neill, Emrys Staton, Children's Ministry Team

6:30-7:30 PM: Cookies and Cider Fellowship Hour—please bring cookies to share

7:30 PM: Lessons & Carols

Service Leaders: Rev. Margret A. O'Neill, Emrys Staton, Benjie Messer

We celebrate Christmas Eve with music, community and candlelight, singing carols and lighting candles in the darkness. The early service includes a children's play and the later service will include the congregation choir. Everyone is invited to bring cookies to share in fellowship from 6:30-7:30pm.

December 31, *One Service – 10:30 am: Sing Out the Old, Ring in the New*

Service Leader: Benjie Messer, Music Director

On the last morning of 2017, join us in singing goodbye to the old year and a hello to the new! Our celebration will include songs that celebrate New Years and Hogmanay, music about beginning anew, and favorites of our congregation.

The UUCP business office will be closed from December 25 to January 1.



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UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF PHOENIX

