



Horizons Journal

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix

April 2018



Living into Our Emerging Promise

Reverend Margret A. O'Neall

Our congregational theme for the month of April is Emergence. The desert element of this month's theme is Wildflowers; and of course, in this season the generous rains come to bless the earth, and the wildflowers emerge all around us.

The word *emergence* has two meanings—the revelation of something that has always been there but which had not been evident, and the creation of something new. The theme of Emergence is a great fit for the two most important things happening here this month. One is the election of your Ministerial Search Committee, in which established members emerge from among you to serve, reveal-

ing new skills in a new role. The second, and just as vital, is the annual pledge drive to support the congregation's operating budget, in which we build on the heritage of the past to create the resources for new energies and commitments to emerge. This year of Search is a crucial time for both commitment and resources, as you build on your heritage and live into your vision, preparing to call the next settled minister to serve this vibrant congregation.

The stewardship theme, "Living Into Our Promise," captures the energy of this threshold time, honoring the courageous commitments of your past and the unfolding potential of the waiting future, as the promises of past generations bloom into something new.

Continued on page 3



Blooming in Hard Times

Emrys Staton

Director of Pastoral Care & Justice Ministries

In years with plentiful winter rains, I always look forward to the abundant wildflowers that will follow. The previous two years were amazing, with super blooms providing carpets of color in Death Valley, Anza Borrego, and across the deserts of Arizona.

This year, not so much.

With our 120°+ days last summer, a below average monsoon season, and well below average winter rainfall, only the scrappiest of flowers are making a showing.

During these dry and lean years, I especially notice the plants that have somehow emerged and established themselves in the cracks of sidewalks or in a small niche in a rock. These are the survivors that defy all the odds with their tenacity and ingenuity.

I've been reading the book, *When They Call*

You a Terrorist, by Patrisse Cullors, one of the three co-founders of Black Lives Matter. It's a memoir that traces her emergence as a queer black woman surrounded by poverty and police, and the emergence of the contemporary movement for black lives that has spread across the country and world.

Reading Patrisse's story has impressed upon me the reality that many of our most profound social movements have had to emerge from the most inhospitable cracks in the pavement, during the times when not much water is falling from the sky. Patrisse shares an intimate story of her family, and makes no attempt to sugar coat the difficulty of trying to survive in a society that openly rejects your dignity. While the American meta-narrative loves to glorify struggle and tenacity, Patrisse makes it clear that there's nothing heroic about surviving the systemic oppression against black and brown

Continued on page 5

Pathway to Membership

Thursdays, April 12th + 19th, 6:45-8:30pm

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.

To register, stop by the welcome table in the lobby and fill out the registration, register on the UUCP website, or contact Janine Gelsinger at janinegelsinger@phoenixUU.org.

New Member Database & Communication Tool

UUCP has transitioned to a new product by our current technology partner called Realm. Members will be able to look up group events, talk to other group members, and find other members with ease. If you would like a login and instruction on how to use Realm, contact Geoff Anderla:

- in the office Sundays 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
- at Community Nights
- via email: GeoffAnderla@Phoenixuu.org
- or call him Tuesday - Friday, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM at 602-840-8400 ext. 201.

Street Requiem Encore

If you missed our choir's March performance of *Street Requiem*—or if you want to hear it again—we're performing it with an even larger orchestra and more singers as part of a concert sponsored by the Tempe Interfaith Fellowship.

Sunday, April 8 at 3:00 PM
First United Methodist Church
215 E. University Dr. in Tempe.

Admission is free, and an offering will be taken to cover concert expenses and contribute to the Interfaith Homeless Emergency Lodging Program, which provides emergency shelter, meals, workplace development and life skills training to people experiencing homelessness. The Tempe Interfaith klezmer ensemble will open the concert.

Thanks for the Cabaret!

On behalf of the Minister's Discretionary Fund, providing support for our members in difficult times, a big note of gratitude to all those who helped create the wonderful *Spirit of Broadway* evening in March. It took many voices, hands, heads and hearts: director ▪ conductor ▪ designers ▪ producers ▪ managers ▪ technicians ▪ singers ▪ orchestra ▪ ushers ▪ servers ▪ box office staff ▪ clean-up crew.

Thanks to you all for musical fun for a good cause!



Continued from "Living..." page 1

And in this threshold time, the promises and commitments of more recent years continue to be fulfilled—membership and attendance continue strong, as long-time members and newcomers of all identities and all ages show up to receive what UUCP has to offer, and to offer the gifts they bring. There are constantly expanding opportunities in children's ministries, adult faith development, social justice action and community-building. We have a strong team of 40 members reaching out during April to create conversations of connection as part of stewardship, and the talented and committed nominees from whom you will elect your Ministerial Search Committee are some of the most remarkable people I have ever met. This congregation continues to amaze me with your strength and wisdom in new and wonderful ways.

People often ask me why I choose to be an intentional interim minister. Why would anyone want to move around the country, starting up with a new congregation and getting settled in a new community every two or three years? "Isn't that hard," they ask "packing up and moving all the time, constantly starting over?"

Of course there are parts of it that are not easy, I respond. But any difficulty is more than balanced out by the joy I find in the process. What I most love are the always-different challenges and learnings that emerge as a congregation comes to understand and integrate the best of their past, as they explore the open space created by the in-between time, and as they open to the promise of the emerging future they will create as they partner with a new settled minister. What I most love about this work is the process of emergence.

And so we make our way together through this emerging space in a spirit of trust and curiosity—trusting that the commitment and resources to support the future will emerge as they are needed, and curious about what new possibilities await. It is good to be with you in this time—see you at UUCP! □

Congregational Photo!

April 1st between services

Come early for the second service or stay a bit later after the first service to be a part of our full Congregational photo. We aim to take the photo at about 11:00 AM but please come to the patio about 10:45 AM to take our places.



Special Congregational Meeting



to Elect the Ministerial
Search Committee

Sunday, April 8

10:35 AM

All members in good standing
are eligible to vote.



For more information about the
Unitarian Universalist Congregation
of Phoenix, visit us at:

<http://www.phoenixuu.org/>



**UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI | 2018**

The call of our Unitarian Universalist faith has a place for each of us. All Are Called to join us this June 20-24 in Kansas City to build courageous, collective leadership with tools, skills and connections.

GA HOUSING AND REGISTRATION ARE NOW OPEN!

All the info you need for GA Registration, Housing (room rates start at \$136 + tax—rates increase May 1), Programming Highlights & Schedule of Events can be found at:

<https://www.uua.org/ga>

Grounded in a deep belief that we are all prophets, Unitarian Universalists ask, “How can we faithfully meet the demands of our time?” The call to witness and act for justice in our society and in the world is clear. So, too, is the call to examine our structures and practices, dismantling and transforming those which fail to recognize the full humanity of all people and to honor the interdependent web of life. Join us in Kansas City as we dive deeply into questions of mission for our Unitarian Universalist Association, for our congregations and communities, and for each of us as individuals. Together, we’ll ask:

Who and how are we called to be at this time, individually and collectively?

How are we called to act and to live?

How does our Unitarian Universalist legacy strengthen us in living out our mission? In what ways does our legacy present challenges and impediments to answering our call?

The call of our faith has a place for each of us. Join us in Kansas City to build courageous, collective leadership with tools, skills and connections.

Continued from "Blooming..." page 1

people in the U.S.

Unitarians and Universalists have our own emergence stories—trying to bloom under conditions that sought to have us destroyed. It took centuries of theological pushback to arrive at the point where church teachings didn't center on condemnation and guilt. But while our theology and philosophy have made huge strides compared to other denominations, we still find that we have significant spiritual work to do, especially in the arenas of class and race.

What will emerge out of Unitarian Universalism in the coming years and decades is unknown. I imagine that some new kinds of UU communities will try to spring up in the cracks and niches where it seemed impossible that something could ever grow.

As I move on from UUCP at the end of this month, I will be returning back to the community at large with a goal of supporting the new, innovative, emergent spiritual groups and projects that can bring more beauty and color into this world. And I'll be excitedly watching as you all, too, continue to unfold as a vibrant blossom in the landscape of the Valley. □



Best Wishes to Emrys

Sunday, April 29th

Save the Date!

We've been so lucky to have these great years with Emrys as our ministerial intern and then as our Director of Pastoral Care and Justice Ministries. And now it's time to say goodbye and best wishes for the next steps.

Sunday Service 10:30 AM

Emrys will be giving the sermon—our last chance to hear his warmth, his humor and his wisdom. It's our first single-service Sunday leading into summer so there's just one service.

Farewell Reception **Johnson Room and Patio**

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Special treats and the opportunity to write your own messages of love as we send Emrys off on his next voyage of discovery.

BBQ and Sunset Hike **Mojave Ramada in Piestewa Park**

3:00 – 7:30pm

Come and leave when you wish—bring things to grill and share! Sunset watching hike leaves from the ramada at 6:30.



Let Us Emerge as a Butterfly & Spread Our Wings

Karin Quinn

Member, Board of Trustees

Emerging Butterfly your little world grew too small, so you came outside into the real one. It's not come to you yet, so you need to fly to see. Spread those delicate wings, go and take a look at things. Is it colder outside than you thought? Is it a place you could call home? Or, would you rather stay under a rock? Your little world grew too small. Your dreams aren't so small, if all you wanted to do was walk.

This is the first verse of the poem “Emerging Butterfly” by Michael Pyatt. Well, I don’t know about you, but I have no intention of staying under a rock! I don’t think any of us want UUCP to stay under a rock either. This much is evident, as it seems more members of our congregation emerge into new leadership roles than I have witnessed in my eight years at UUCP.

In so many ways, we are being called to come out from under of our safe, familiar rocks, and test out a wider world. Many changes have taken place, and will continue to do so as we become

For all of us, as a congregation, this is a time to be brave. Let us stand up and be counted, let us dare to show our colors, and let us dare to fly to pastures new.

administratively more efficient, as well as more cohesive in identifying who we are—work with which the Ministerial Search Committee will also be occupied as part of its mission to find our new settled minister. As together we form this all-important committee, we are truly identifying the colors and patterns of our butterfly wings and look forward to spreading them as we fly in the direction of our vision.

In part, we are gathered in our cocoon, awaiting who will lead us in flight, but we also take responsibility and leadership roles to direct the

journey. We do so in many ways. We all have a part to play as we contemplate our pledges for the coming year in the upcoming Stewardship Campaign, without which, our mission and vision would fail in our beloved Congregation.

At several points in my life I feel I have returned to a cocoon to gather more information in order to emerge as a butterfly with an identity made up of colors and shapes grown from life experience and personal growth. I remember quite clearly, around 20 years ago, feeling like I was, finally, a fully formed butterfly, sitting on a branch, ready to fly, only to be diagnosed with an illness which stopped me dead in my tracks. Many hurdles had to be overcome, much emotional growth had to take place, before I felt like I once again emerged with a different outlook, a quite different person to the one I had expected to become, and flying an alternative path to the one envisaged earlier—but I did fly again. Such is life, and such is our journey too.

This was the case when our settled minister announced that she might leave us, and again when she did so. We are most definitely transforming as a congregation in more ways than I had expected during this interim time. I love seeing people come out of their shells as they lead Adult Faith classes which they had never expected to take, or finding their talents develop as they help in Children’s Ministry, OWL, COA and YRUU groups. I love how the Worship Associates are given, and taking, the opportunity to share stories about themselves at the pulpit, how leadership committees are being formed all around us.

I found myself growing in a stage management role and as a performer, too, in the recent UUCP Cabaret show. I had no idea how to stage manage a cabaret, but I learned, I grew, and I felt valued. I sang with my dear friend Donna Featherston (for the fourth time), which felt very comfortable. However, I also performed my first solo song at UUCP, and, up until the final week of rehearsals before the show, I thought I would sing

my number from the floor in front of the stage in the Sanctuary, scared and feeling exposed at the thought of performing on stage, under the bright lights, in front of a large audience. However, when it came to it, I found myself daring to move onto the stage. I will never be the best singer, but I performed my song with pride, and respect for myself for having been brave enough to do so.

For all of us, as a congregation, this is a time to be brave. Let us stand up and be counted, let us dare to show our colors, and let us dare to fly to pastures new. □

— EMERGENCE —

Reading poetry is like undressing before a bath. You don't undress out of fear that your clothes will become wet. You undress because you want the water to touch you. You want to completely immerse yourself in the feeling of the water and to emerge anew.

Kamand Kojouri

My ideas have undergone a process of emergence by emergency. When they are needed badly enough, they are accepted.

R. Buckminster Fuller

I simply think that water is the image of time, and every New Year's Eve, in somewhat pagan fashion, I try to find myself near water, preferably near a sea or an ocean, to watch the emergence of a new helping, a new cupful of time from it.

Joseph Brodsky

Community Nights

Thursdays, 6:00 PM, Johnson Room

Join us in the Johnson Room for food and friendship. A donation of \$5 per adult, \$2 per child under ten, or \$10 per family, covers the cost of the meal.

Community Night is not a potluck. Instead, each week features the talents of the fabulous cooks in our congregation. If you'd like to contribute as a Sous Chef (sides, salad, or bread), please sign up in advance.

If you'd like to join, but have dietary restrictions or preferences, you are welcome to bring your own meal.

If you have any questions about Community Night, please contact Daisy Danforth at uucpcommunitynight@gmail.com.

Community Night Passover — April 5th

Please join us for a Community Night Passover celebration at UUCP. We will begin at 6:00 PM in the Sanctuary with a special reading of the Haggadah, led by the Lifshitz family.

A potluck Passover dinner will follow, around 7:00 PM. Please sign up for a dish here: phoenixuu.org/passover.



Recycling Center Tour & Other Green Initiatives Green Sanctuary Committee

Recycling Center Field Trip:

RA recent tour gave some insight into these often-hidden processes. First, it's difficult to find the North Gate Transit Station, where one million tons of recycled items are sorted each year, because there is a new housing project being constructed within 200 yards of the facility. One would think the noise, smell and pollution from such a place would keep development away. But the process has been streamlined to keep these low.

The transit station building is divided down the middle. The East side, run by a private recycling company, is where recyclables are unloaded. Skip loaders transfer them to a conveyor belt which moves briskly to sorting areas where contract laborers pull out unwanted items. *Milk cartons* are now accepted! We wondered how long these workers' shifts were. At the end of the belts were bales of metal, plastic, cardboard, and paper which are sold to companies who reuse the materials.

The unwanted items go on a separate conveyor belt to West side of the building, run by the City of Phoenix. The trash just falls through a big slot in the floor to where big semi-trucks wait to take

their load (equivalent to three garbage truck loads) to the landfill. This reduces costs of transportation.

As we travelled through the glassed-in walkway in the middle of the building, we saw recycled art on the walls. We also saw displays of how ground-up metal, plastic and paper were re-used. And, finally, we saw a display of how *recycled plastic bags* were used to make decking "lumber," park benches, and other bins and items. So I'll keep taking them to the grocery stores, and hope you do too.

Light Up Your Life for Less! (electricity and money)

LED bulbs will be available for purchase near the library starting Sunday, March 25. Let us know if you need a different type, and we'll do the shopping for you.

Clean Air for Schoolchildren:

Remember to visit <https://vwsettlement.az.gov> to send your comments to the governor asking to use the \$57 million from the VW settlement lawsuit to buy electric school buses for high pollution school districts. □

Yurts, Democracy & Genghis Khan: Modern Mongolia with Traveling 2nd Fridays



extinguish their religion, Buddhism, and the memory of Genghis Khan. In 1990 there was a peaceful revolution that brought them democracy, and a renewed acceptance of Buddhism and Genghis Khan.



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:

Cherilyn Walley's father, Thomas Lamar Walley, known as Grandpa Walley to many of the children at UUCP, died suddenly at the age of 72.

Vicki Copeland shared the passing of her mother Gerry (Myers) Copeland. She had been hospitalized and then transitioned to hospice care before dying on March 1st.

The mother of longtime member Donna Dowd, Mary Grossman, died peacefully in late February.

Your healing thoughts and prayers are appreciated by our friends whose hearts are heavy with sorrow as they grieve the loss of their loved ones.

Healing Wishes & Transitions:

We send strength and wishes for recovery to Arnold Thaw, who was recently in the hospital and has transitioned to the Beatitudes Rehab Hospital (at the time of this writing). He enjoyed the get well card signed by many at UUCP. Get well, Arnold, we're thinking of you!

A joyful update: Anne Lackey successfully navigated surgery and continues to heal. She's grateful for the care she received, and support from her family and UU community.

Thank You to all our Unicare Program volunteers: the email distribution group (e-Group), Memorial Service, and Friendship Partners volunteers. Your contribution to the support of our UUCP community is so very much appreciated!

Interested in providing an occasional meal, sending a card, or providing other support to someone in our congregation in need (at a time of sorrow or joy)? Contact Vicki at unicare@phoenixuu.org for more information. We welcome those with caring hearts and able hands who wish to put them to good use with our team of compassionate volunteers. □

Memorial Garden

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

Jesse O. Allen
Lucy Burrell Allen
Irv Bezman
Virginia Ann Bliklen
Bruce H. Clayton
Eleanor Dana-Mast
Edward Ellison Davis
Hanna B. Parker
Robert William Riddle
Lucy Buckner Wells

To see a World in a Grain of Sand
And a Heaven in a Wild Flower
Hold Infinity in the palm of your hand
And Eternity in an hour
William Blake

April Worship Theme: **Emergence (Wildflowers)**

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

— Starting April 29: One service only at 10:30 AM —

April 1: Living Into Our Promise

Service Leader: Rev. Margret A. O'Neill

Since 1946, Unitarian Universalists have congregated here, seeking community, working to create a better world. From those days of things remembered, the promise has emerged, growing in power and presence, a beacon that shines with hope. How do we build on our heritage to live into that emerging promise?

April 8: Call and Commitment

Service Leader: Rev. Margret A. O'Neill

Ministry is the act of putting into action our programs, desires and commitments—an act of leadership and service to a higher good. As this congregation elects the Ministerial Search Committee, we consider: what is the ministry to which we are called, and to which we commit ourselves?

April 15: Theologically Diverse, Radically Inclusive, Justice Centered

Service Leader: Rev. Margret A. O'Neill

The powerful vision of this congregation inspires and challenges us, calling us to imagine new ways of thinking, doing, being in the world. We rise to the challenge of moving beyond the familiar to create new possibility, a new reality we can barely imagine, our promise to the world.

April 22: How We Change The World

Service Leader: Rev. Nathan Hollister, Board Member, Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

Trying times such as these are also the ideal environment for the emergence of countervailing power. This morning, Rev. Nathan Hollister will speak to the unique role we are called to, as Unitarian Universalists, in building the more beautiful world our hearts know is possible.

Rev. Nathan Hollister is a third-generation Unitarian Universalist who leads the ministry of Sacred Fire UU, which plants and grows covenanted communities with mostly unaffiliated young people. He is a social transformation trainer, working with clergy, community organizers, and other leaders to increase our collective impact toward justice, peace, and ecological sustainability. He lives in the mountains of North Carolina.

One Service Only at 10:30 AM

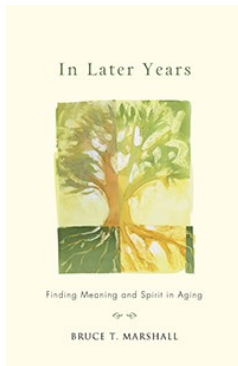
April 29: My Top 10: What I'll Cherish from UUCP

Service Leader: Emrys Staton

Near the end of our week-long youth camps at DeBenneville Pines, the campers stay up all night and create "Top Ten" lists that capture the highlights from the week, some serious but mostly comical. For his final sermon, Emrys will offer his own Top Ten reflections from his time at UUCP.

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

New Book Focuses on Older Seniors



Skinner House Books is thrilled to announce *In Later Years: Finding Meaning and Spirit in Aging* by Bruce T. Marshall. Drawing on scores of personal interviews, *In Later Years* provides a felt sense, grounded in real-life accounts, of the challenges and blessings of aging. Unlike many books on the topic, this straightforward yet introspective volume focuses particularly on older seniors—those in their late seventies, eighties, and nineties. Interviewees thoughtfully share about their joys, regrets, accomplishments, and things left unfinished, while also considering the ways they cope with diminishing physical and mental abilities.

The book also serves as an invaluable resource for family members and caregivers, suggesting ways to help, ways to connect and ways to understand the issues that attend growing old. *In Later Years* is now available to pre-order at inSpirit: The UU Book and Gift Shop: www.uuabookstore.org.



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