



Horizons Journal

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix
July/August 2018



Renewal in a Season of Change

Reverend Margret A. O'Neill

The summer months bring many sources of renewal to those who live in this desert region. This time holds the unpredictable promise of monsoon rains to nourish a thirsty earth and replenish the water reserves. The break from winter routines of the academic year may offer a time for families to renew their energy in a different daily rhythm, perhaps with longer, lazier days to fill with recreational activities. And for some, a sense of renewal comes with the prospect of time on vacation, heading perhaps to higher ground, perhaps into a different part of the country, or activities close to home, bringing a change of pace that can refresh the spirits.

Each summer, it is my practice to make a cross-country drive from wherever I am serving to spend some time at home in St. Louis. On those trips I have abundant opportunity to reflect on the summer as a time of rebuilding and renewal. If you have undertaken a journey on our highways, you understand that across our nation there are basically two seasons: "winter" and "highway construction." Our interstate system is over a half-century old now, and it shows. There are more and heavier cars and trucks every year, and while some stretches have been expanded and resurfaced, some of the roadways we travel are pitted and patched, narrow and crowded. We seldom see new highways being created these days, but there is extensive work on strengthening

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Roadmap to the Search Process Ministerial Search Committee

The marvelous thing about a good question is that it shapes our

identity as much by the asking as it does by the answering. —David Whyte

The Ministerial Search Committee (MSC) met in retreat the first weekend of June. It was a joy getting to know each other and truly bonding as a team to serve UUCP. We met with Rev. Christian Schmidt, our Regional Transitions Coach, who led us through team building exercises and provided us with information and resources to guide us through the process. We also met with Rev. Margret whose kind support and insight will be invaluable to us.

We've come to appreciate how we are living our Third Principle: the right of conscience and the

use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large. You, the congregation, elected the MSC through this process and it is our goal to keep you informed each step of the way.

Here's a road map to the Search process:

June - November 2018: The MSC will prepare a congregational survey and draft our congregational record and packet ("brochure" website). This is the information prospective ministers will review to decide whether they will express interest in our Lead Minister position. Our record and packet contain a wealth of information about our congregation: our vision and mission, demographics, history, finances, our larger Arizona community and our challenges. It will also include vital information developed through our next step, the congregational survey and focus meetings.

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Summer Enrichment

Benjie Messer

Music Director

Like most other things at the congregation, our music program quiets down in the summer. Our choir takes a three-month vacation, many of our musicians go in and out of town, and our staff find time for trips or projects that we don't have time for in the busier winter months. I have just a few of those to share with you.

First, I have a summer event to invite you to: an original piece of musical theater. UUCP member Teresa Simone, who has been working in theater for most of her adult life, has written a show called "Baby Sonora," a piece of magical realism which opens with a baby being found abandoned in the desert, straddling the border between Mexico and Arizona. We will be hosting an unstaged reading of the latest draft of "Baby Sonora" in our sanctuary on Wednesday, July 18 at 7:00 pm, with UUCP members reading and singing each role. The main purpose of this reading is to support Teresa by giving her feedback on the show, both appreciation and critique, so whether you know her, enjoy theater, or simply want an interesting night, please join us!

Second—and I think I wrote about this last summer, too—now is the time to thank you for providing me with the professional development funds to attend the summer UU Musicians Network conference, which includes my in-person classes in the UUA's Music Leadership Certification Program. Last year, my most valuable class was called "Leading a Choral Rehearsal," and the most valuable assignment in that class was to attend rehearsals of four other local choirs and write reflections of those rehearsals. Though I was generally happy with my rehearsals before, these observations really helped me see clearly what I liked and didn't like, and I think our choir rehearsals improved this year as a result. So again, thank you for funding my participation in this program! The conference is in Portland, OR, and my wife Kristina and I will be taking a week of vacation to drive there and enjoy California. And I'll let you know next year which of this year's classes

turns out to be the most valuable; they include "Leading Congregational Singing," "Music Leaders as Theologians," and a workshop on collaborative leadership in congregational work against racism.

If you are away at all during the summer, safe travels! Either way, I hope you get a chance for renewal, rest and a fun summer project. □



INQUIRERS SERIES

Every Sunday 11:45 AM in Annex B

Inquirers is a series for anyone who would like to meet others and learn more about UUCP. Each week after service, join other newcomers, members, lay leaders and the membership team for a half hour of building connections and growing relationships. The second half hour explores changing topics each week, that go deeper into an area of ministry within our congregation.

Inquirers topics include *Leadership, Children's Ministry, Unicare, Social Justice, Membership, Congregational Tour + History, Small Group Ministry, Unitarian Universalism 101, and Inside Worship Services*. Coffee and treats provided, no sign-up necessary!

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the foundations, expanding into more and wider lanes, and the sort of maintenance and renewal that keeps the roadways from crumbling over time, meeting the demands of changing patterns and mechanics of transportation.

Just like a highway, a faith community requires constant attention, an ongoing process of renewal to stay in good repair, keeping up with the needs and demands of changing times. As a transitional minister, my work is to coach a congregation as they focus on five key areas of congregational life that have been shown to facilitate a healthy process of renewal. The first of these is Heritage, understanding the foundations, the context and history of the congregation over time, and how the past has shaped the patterns and practices of the present day. As we understand where we come from and how we are affected by our past, we can travel forward with renewed energy and more secure command of our strengths and resources.

The second area of congregational focus is Mission, the sense of purpose and vision for the future, providing the roadmap for the journey into the congregation we might yet become. A clear mission and vision create a navigational guide, and provide the benchmarks by which we measure progress into the future that we create by our decisions, investments and actions.

The third focus area is Leadership to support and guide us on the journey. I have learned that congregations can thrive if they nourish distributed leadership, in which everyone in the congregation is a leader in some way, however they contribute to the journey—sharing their unique skills, talents and perspective to the life-giving work we do. Leadership, as with any resource, must be intentionally developed and cultivated into strength, especially with all the distractions and demands we face in our increasingly busy lives.

The fourth focus is on Connections, with both the local community and our larger UUA systems. Maintaining and strengthening our ties to local organizations and their priorities helps a congregation stay relevant and grounded in its

context and values, while our regional and national UUA connections provide resources and guidance for the journey.

And finally, the congregation must sustain through the transitional time a clear focus on the Future. Although the journey holds many joys in itself, the goal of the transition is to arrive safely at the destination of a new settled ministry.

And so in this season of replenishing monsoons and highway construction, I wish for each and all an experience of renewal, in which we find the energy to sustain this work to which we have committed. May we recommit always to the task of creating spiritual community that is theologically diverse, radically inclusive and justice centered, for our own transformation and the transformation of the world. See you at UUCP! □

Connections Delayed

Historically our annual program catalog, *Connections*, is published at the end of August. Since we are in the midst of transition and change it will be delayed this year. We will have it available to all as soon as possible.

Compass and the weekly printed Sunday announcements are great sources of up-to-date information as we plan longer-range offerings for the program year.



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August - September 2018: Congregational Survey

October 2018: Congregational Focus Groups

- In a special Sunday service on 10/7/18, the congregation will divide into small groups to discuss how members would describe the congregation now, the future you imagine, and what success will look like in that future. We will hold additional focus groups with youth, congregants at the Beatitudes and Friendship Village, and other groups within the congregation.
- The MSC will meet with Board, Staff, and Rev. Margret.
- Intercultural Competence Workshop.

November' 2018:

- On 11/18/18, the MSC will share thoughts from the congregational survey and focus groups during a Sunday Service.
- Open for Business! On 11/30/18, Ministers will begin to view our congregational record and our search website will be accessible for their review. This will include the congregational survey results.

December 2018: The congregation will participate in a special workshop, *Beyond Categorical Thinking*, which will help us examine biases that might keep us from knowing that a particular person would be the best match for us.

January 2019: The MSC will be provided with the names of all ministers who have submitted their ministerial records for consideration. The first 2-3 weeks of January will be a very busy time for the MSC as we review the ministerial records and websites of those who have applied and decide who moves on to the next step: a videoconferencing interview. The MSC will then select three to four "pre-candidates."

February 2019: Pre-candidates will interview in person with the MSC. The MSC will visit outside congregations to hear each pre-candidate give a sermon.

April 2019: Candidate Selection

- The MSC will make an offer to our first choice candidate following background and reference checks.
- The Board will announce the candidate.

April - May 2019: Candidating Week

- Our candidate will give sermons on two successive Sundays which will bookend a week of meetings with various groups in the congregation.
- On the last Sunday of Candidating week, there is a congregational meeting and vote. If successful, the Congregation will extend the call. It is our hope that we will have a new minister!

August - September 2019: New Minister Arrives

Next up, what UUs like best: questions. There will be questions for us to reflect on personally and opportunities to deeply listen to each other's answers about who we are and where we are going together. This is an exciting time in our congregational journey, not only because we will hopefully engage our new settled minister next year, but because through this process, we have a unique chance to grow in spirit together. □





Rejecting Renewal

Katie Resendiz

Director, Children's Ministries

This month, I invite you even further down the rabbit hole that is a religious educator's mind. As I've worked to prepare myself and our Children's Ministry program for the theme of "Renewal," I keep feeling a resistance in myself. I've never been a fan of resurrection, rebirth, or fresh starts. I don't like the idea that our lives could ever be divided into completely distinct segments. Yes, I hear you, "renewal doesn't mean the old thing ends," but I was so much a child of my local library, that I will always associate "renewal" with the moment your card dies or the time when your right to a book expires . . . dramatic, I know. Beyond the library, the word doesn't quite work in other contexts. In fact, in writing this, I found, I'm not really interested in experiencing renewal.

Rejecting Renewal:

- Education is the process of shifting and stretching and growing. It's not about a dummy suddenly arriving victorious at the destination of genius.
- "Renewed commitment": if a commitment has failed, we shouldn't go back to the old agreement with renewed vigor. We should instead look to what didn't work and grow our commitment into a stronger, more practical bond.
- Thinking about financial commitment is where I find the concept of "renewal" most confusing. If we want to support something, we should want that entity to have the privilege of growing and expanding. "Pledge Renewal" often means committing to contribute the same amount as last time . . . but then how can we expect anything but the exact results of last time? Stability, viability, and vitality are not synonymous.
- In faith development, we never see someone completely leave their beliefs and experiences behind when shaping new ideas. Choosing a new faith or investigating a new path is necessarily influenced by what we believed before. Even if a new faith feels fresh and the individual charged with renewed fervor, they've just moved forward

in their individual search for truth and meaning.

- Forgiveness isn't renewal or even rejuvenation—it's committing to continue the work of being in community.
- Does this mean that I think we can never leave the old behind and forever bare the marks of our pasts? Yep, probably.

Renewal implies an interruption. It is posed as something separate from our work in the world. We step away from our path and come back with fresh energy. But why would we build lives from which we would ever want to step away?

Yes, my argument looks semantic, but I don't want renewal. I want to stay on my path. I want rest and motion to flow through the same channel. I want everything I've ever conquered or failed to fully be a part of me. I want to build the structures and community around me that support health and understand time and celebrate stretching and growing and continuing our way. But I keep getting caught on this word "renewal." □

Coming of Age

Important Dates for Families of Community Members Entering 7th/8th Grade

- August 14, 6:00 pm—Mentor Orientation (If you are interested in learning more, contact KatieResendiz@phoenixu.org.)
- August 19, 5:00 pm—Middle & High School Convocation: Blessing the class and commissioning their mentors, CoA Full Orientation
- September 9—Ingathering & Water Communion
- May 28, 2019—Coming of Age Service Rehearsal
- June 2, 2019—Coming of Age Celebration Service

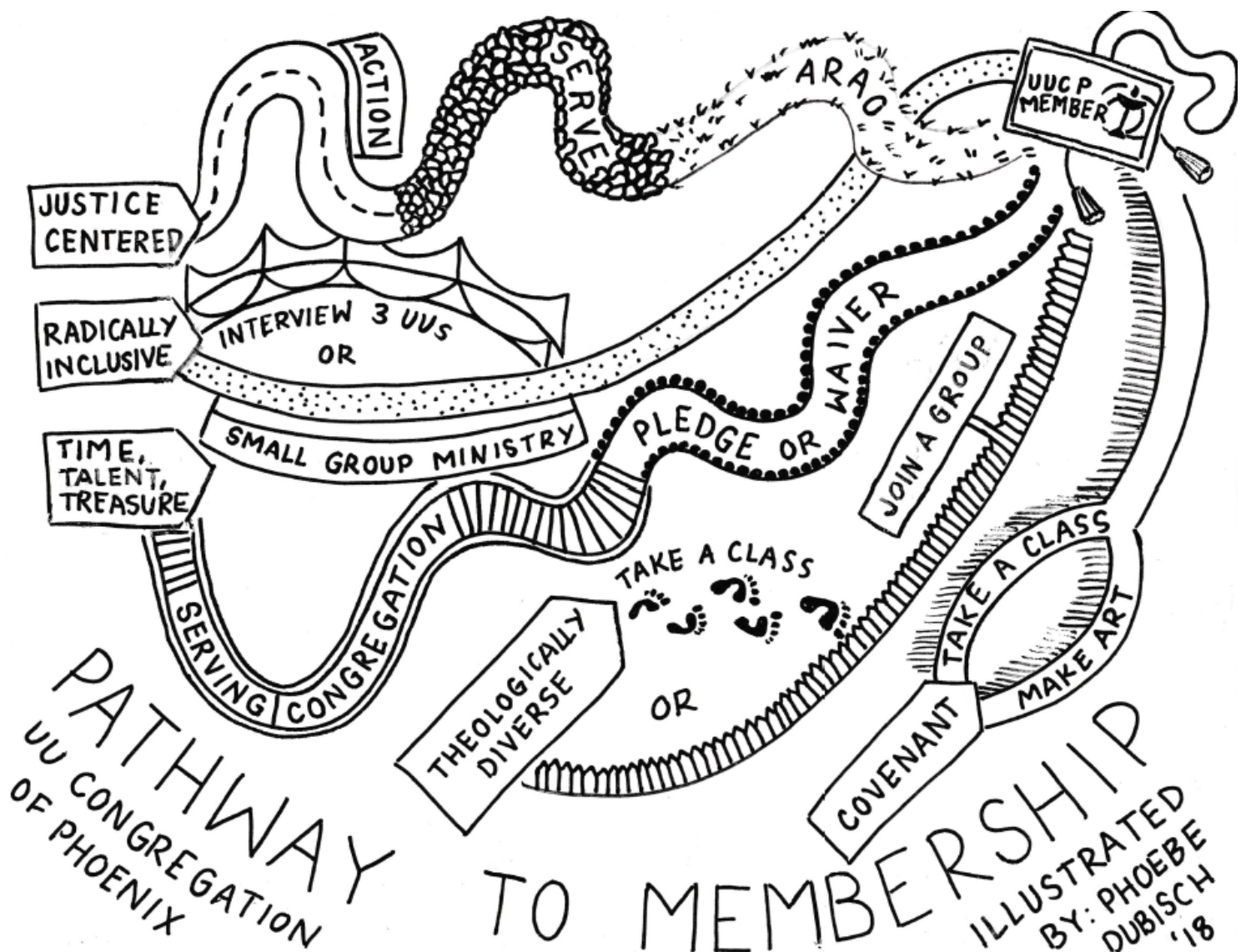
New Pathways to Membership

Radically Inclusive, in alignment with our vision. How could we make a program that is as accessible as possible to folks with different learning styles, schedules, and preference for pace... beyond the offerings of four classes per year?

Instead of joining the congregation first as a member, and next trying to connect with the community through small groups and service opportunities... what if we flipped that model and

folks already felt like community members, before signing the book? If we think about what makes a member of the congregation... what are all the things we'd want to people to experience that makes us UUCPers? And how could we make those experiences as welcoming as possible, to introverts and extroverts, to readers and artists, to students and retirees and all sorts of work schedules?

What we came up with is a model where folks can "choose their own path" to membership—a menu of sorts that both deepens the membership experience, and widens it to include more individuality. A huge thanks to all of the Welcoming Ministry team members and staff who contributed ideas and feedback, and especially to member and artist Phoebe Dubisch for illustrating the Pathways.



Pathway to Membership

Members of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix are . . .

Justice Centered

- ❑ Take action to advance justice in our world (attend a march/protest/rally/vigil, or fill out a postcard or petition at the Advancing Justice table in the back of the Sanctuary, etc.)
and
- ❑ Serve the community in a justice centered area (contribute to a UUCP justice group, or partner with local groups organizing for justice).
and
- ❑ Deepen your understanding of anti-racism anti-oppression work (ARAO) by attending a White Supremacy Teach-in, ARAO workshop, ARAO Adult Faith Development class, or "Centering" book study.

Radically Inclusive

- ❑ Engage with a Small Group, check out the Drop-In Small Group, or participate in the Inquirers "Small Group" class.
or
- ❑ Interview three UU's about their life and UU experiences.

Sharing of Time Talent and Treasure

- ❑ Serve the congregation in a ministry area of your choice, according to your talents.
and
- ❑ Fill out a pledge or waiver to financially support UUCP.

Theologically Diverse

- ❑ Take a class (Inquirers "Theological Diversity" class, World Wisdoms in Dialogue, Coming of Age, Spiritual Practices, Cakes for the Queen of Heaven, Rise Up and Call Her Name, etc.)
or
- ❑ Join a group that is theology based (Women's Ritual, CUUPS, Buddhist Sangha, Meditation group, etc.)

Part of a Covenanted Community

- ❑ Take a class (Inquirers "Covenant" class).
or
- ❑ Make art depicting your experience of our covenant (write a song, perform a poem, create a quilt, express through dance, make visual art, etc.)



Planning for a New Year at Maryland School

Cathy Kim

Chair, Maryland School Partnership

Why, in the heat of summer, are we thinking about school? Because our quest for justice never lies dormant, even during summer break we plan ahead for our partner school where our help will be very much needed in the upcoming school year. Maryland is a school where the population needs extra resources beyond the school budget, for supplies and also to make up for some of the deficits in what struggling families are able to provide children to give them the best possible education. Enrollment includes a large number of refugee students. With our partnership (UUCP, Church of the Beatitudes, and Beatitudes Campus) we can bring many gifts of time, talents, and assets to the table. Please look for a way that you can be an active member of our partnership.

Tutoring Reading or Math

Just an hour a week with a student or small group can make a big difference over the course of a year. The extra attention and relationship with a caring adult mentor mean a lot, and it is an effective way to boost student achievement and confidence. Last year we had the largest number of volunteers ever, our efforts were greatly appreciated, and volunteers expressed enthusiasm about their experiences. We

hope to continue this high level of participation—and one of the volunteers could be you!

School Supplies

We will again have a Back-to-School supply collection for four Sundays—July 22 through August 12. Watch *Compass* and *Sunday Announcements* for a list of what is needed.

Gardening

Maryland is a certified Schoolyard Habitat, including a raised bed garden of vegetables and flowers, an eight-tree orchard, attracting lots of birds, with a new pollinator garden being planted this fall. Maintaining that garden and conducting classes two mornings twice a month gives 1st and 4th grade students a hands-on chance to learn about soil, life cycles of plants, animals, and the importance of our environment, make scientific observations, discover new tastes and smells. Kids and gardening—a great combination, and we could use your help to engage students in smaller groups.

Occasional Events

The staff plans late-afternoon events during the year to engage whole families on a particular topic to encourage both education and ways to have family



Helping a student with reading



Observation & notetaking

time. Student recognition ice cream parties are held quarterly. Supporting teachers and staff is an important focus, to build community as they work with a challenging population—notes of encouragement, helping PTA with several staff dinners at conference time and a teacher appreciation luncheon. All of these efforts need volunteers, so if you can help occasionally, let us know, and we'll be in touch about dates and tasks.

Donations

Also needed: Incentives for Literacy Center reading and math achievement—colorful erasers and pencils, small toys and trinkets. For more significant achievement—\$5 gift cards to Dollar Tree & 99¢ Stores, \$10 cards for Harkins Theaters, Target, Walmart, fast food restaurants, etc.

Contributions may be made by cash or check for the Maryland Task Force to use for these needs. Checks should be made to UUCP with “Maryland School” in the note, and cash and gift cards in an envelope also marked for the school. These may be put in the offering on Sundays or checks may be mailed to UUCP.

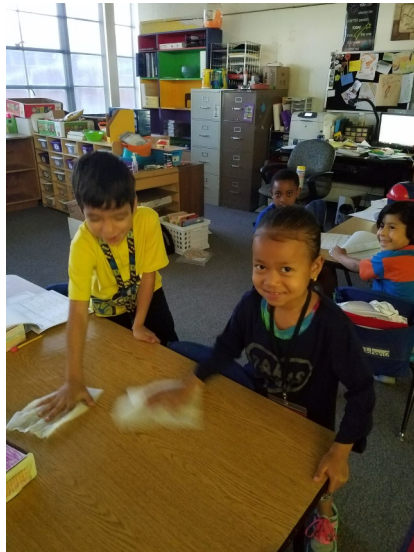
Tax credit donations

are a very important source of funds for field trips, music, sports, and after school programs. Forms may be found at the Washington Elementary District website and include Maryland School address: www.wesdschools.org/domain/42.

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Washing our veggies



Cleaning our desks



Comparing living and non-living



Getting ready to plant



“We love veggie salsa!”



Huge cauliflower!

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Advocacy

The Justice Ministry will continue to be active in providing opportunities for you to use your voice in promoting legislation and other ways to advocate for a more just, equitable education system. Please watch for announcements throughout the year.

Many thanks to the Maryland School Task Force Members, and all those who contributed in a number of ways to help build this partnership and give to the Maryland School community. The resourcefulness of people in this congregation is great. Our individual gifts and talents when brought together in the spirit of respect, kindness, and justice become even more powerful in their impact. We need you, and ask that you think about where you might fit into this partnership.

To volunteer or for more info: Cathy Kim, ckim248@yahoo.com. □



Picking from our garden—Maryland School

Habits of Green/Blue Heroes

From UUCP Green Sanctuary

Blue (water) Hero Hints:

- Keep a two-gallon bucket (available at Dollar store) in or near your shower or bath to catch the early (colder) water before bathing. That's enough to flush your toilet.
- Another (oldie but goodie) toilet tip: If it's yellow, let it mellow (don't flush). If it's brown, flush it down.
- Use a low-flow shower head which lets you rinse, turn off water at the head, soap up and then rinse again.



Green (earth friendly) Hero Hints:

- Bring your own, reusable water bottle with you wherever you go. Don't use single-use water bottles.
- Pour coffee grounds (cooled) directly into garden spaces or even houseplants. They are almost completely nitrogen (good for plants).
- Compost vegetable waste (no grease or meat) from your kitchen. Many cities give out old garbage containers with the bottoms cut off and holes in the sides.
- Take mass transit or carpool whenever possible.



Community Night Dinners

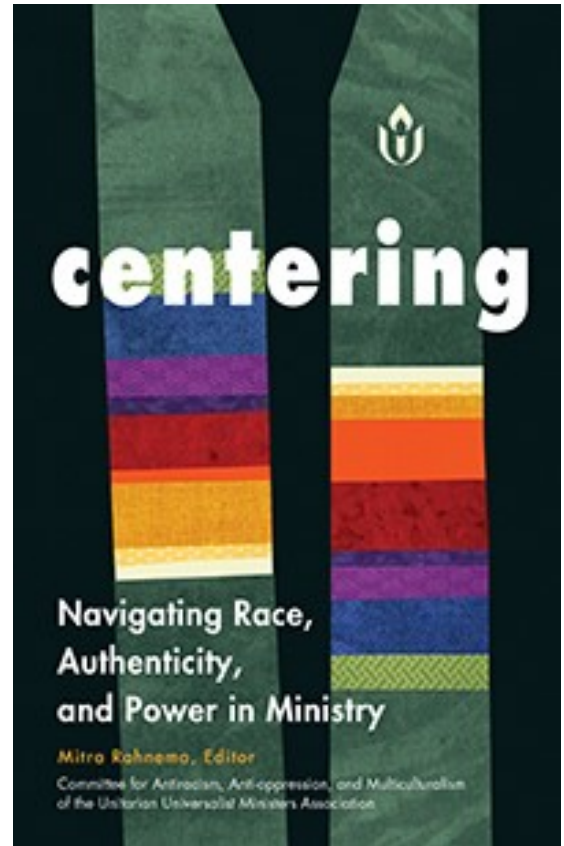
September 13 - November 15, join us each Thursday at 6:00 pm in the Johnson Room for food and friendship. A donation of \$6 per adult, \$3 per child under ten, or \$12 per family, covers the cost of the meal.

Each week's meal 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.

In the spirit of Radical Inclusion, vegan and gluten-free options are often a part of the meal, ingredients are labeled, and chefs are available for questions. If you have additional dietary restrictions or preferences, you are also always welcome to bring your own meal.

Following the meal, we have an exciting Fall line-up of small groups, classes, activities and discussions that will bring us closer to living into our vision of being Theologically Diverse, Radically Inclusive, and Justice Centered.

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



Summer Reading

Read *Centering*, the UUAs “Common Read” for 2018, with us this summer. *Centering* explores how racial identity is made both visible and invisible in Unitarian Universalist ministries, by expressing the voices and experiences of UU religious professionals of color. This book is recommended by the UUA for all congregations, and especially those with a person of color in ministry. Join a reflection and discussion group on Thursdays August 9, 16, and 23 at 7:00 PM by signing up in Realm: phoenixuu.org/commonread.

You can purchase *Centering* at the UUA Bookstore: <https://www.uuabookstore.org/Centering-P18206.aspx>.



Finding Meaning and Hope A Video Discussion Series for Family Caregivers

This free video discussion series offers real promise to reduce stress and build resilience. It's for you if you're caring for a loved one...whether across the living room or across the country. Based on the groundbreaking book *Loving Someone Who Has Dementia: How to Find Hope While Coping with Stress and Grief* by Pauline Boss, Ph.D., this video series is for any caregiver who struggles with the complex grief and stress of caregiving.

DATE: Sundays, September 16, 2018 - November 18, 2018
TIME: 2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix
4027 E. Lincoln Drive
Paradise Valley, AZ 85253
COST: Free
RSVP: To sign up, please email Anne Lackey and Joan Gale at Duet@phoenixuu.org



In partnership with:





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:

Longtime member Helen Votichenko passed away on May 4 at the age of 98. Her son Peter celebrates her long life. A memorial service honoring her life will be shared at UUCP on July 7.

Previous UUCP member Virginia “Ginny” Lindquist Gross, and wife of Rev. Fritz Hudson, died suddenly on May 26. Rev. Hudson served UUCP from 1991-98. Ginny stayed in touch with her UUCP friends and her sudden loss will be grieved by many.

We send peace to the Perez-Resendiz family who shared the loss of Elena’s sister Yvette and Katie’s beloved uncle Jaime.

Healing Wishes & Transitions:

Please lift up in your thoughts or prayers those healing, or transitioning, that they may be strengthened by the love of our community.

- Kathy Baughman — Progressing from a seriously broken leg (no more ladders!).
- Bill Parker — Recovering from hip surgery.
- Susan Morris — Making progress and enjoying a new knee.
- Arnold Thaw — Welcoming visits at The Beatitudes from his UUCP friends.
- Jen Hempel — Bravely navigating cancer treatments.

And any others who may be experiencing grief, sadness, health challenges, or otherwise healing.

Milestones & Celebrations:

Congratulations to Heidi Parmenter, longtime UUCP Office Administrator—we wish her good health and joy as she pursues a new life path.

Grandbaby Joy! To Ed Cernek & Bonnie White on the birth of their first grandson, Blake Alexander Cernek.

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*

July:

Carl Roland Ely
Mel E. Fair

August:

Elaine Eller Goldman
Roberta Chamberlain
Howard Ewing Irvine
Lawanda Roach Mc Vey
Thomas Evan Parker
Rose Ruttkay

July/August Worship Theme: **Renewal / Monsoon**

Services bring our community together at 10:30 AM

*American Sign Language interpreter available at some services.
See phoenixuu.org/worship/asl for most recent details.*

July 1: Pilgrimage

Service Leader: Jan Kaplan

What is “pilgrimage?” Jan will share some reflections from her recent walking pilgrimages through Spain and Portugal. We’ll look at pilgrimage as an allegory, and how it might be relevant to all of our life journeys and renewal.

July 8: Crowdsourced Hymn Sing

Service Leader: Benjie Messer

Join us for an interactive morning of singing from our Unitarian Universalist hymnals. Attendees will be chosen at random to select songs, so you may get to choose your favorite—or to try something that we’ve never sung before!

July 15: Randomizing Life: Renewing Connections to the Community of Life

Service Leader: Katie Harris

Have you ever looked out your window and asked, “What am I missing?” What if you stepped outside your normal routine and experienced life through the eyes of a stranger? A man named Max asked himself these questions and created an “App” that led him randomly out into the world.

July 22: Dr. Seuss, Mitochondria, and the Virtue of Honesty

Service Leader: Gary Ezzell

The morality of Dr. Seuss as seen in his imaginary Truffula trees and Sneetches is supported by some real universals, such as how all living cells harness energy. Honesty, which is fundamental to science and morality, is also a universal... and as Dr. Seuss wrote: “Fun is good.”

July 29: Nourishing Each Other

Service Leader: Rev. Margret A. O’Neill

Nourishing and being nourished is part of our life in community, a source of renewal for our minds, bodies and spirits. Nourishing each other in mutuality supports our mission to welcome all, building religious community as we are called to share journeys, grow in spirit, and advance justice.

August 5: Re-Creation

Service Leader: Rev. Margret A. O'Neill

Summer is a time for renewal—a time to change the pattern, to replenish our resources, to re-create ourselves. The Jewish mystical Kabbalah tradition speaks of Tikkun olam, which translates as “repairing the world.” As people of faith, we are called to repair the brokenness of the world, which begins with healing our own lives.

August 12: Beyond Belief

Service Leader: Rev. Margret A. O'Neill

Unitarian Universalists have been called “freethinking mystics with hands”—faithful people who will not be bound to a static creed, and who commit to a practical religion, a religious practice of making a difference. What does it mean to be part of a religion that is beyond belief?

August 19: Embrace the Elephant

Service Leader: Rev. Margret A. O'Neill

We talk a lot about elephants as a metaphor for something large and mysterious—the elephant in the room, or perhaps perceiving parts of the elephant without understanding the whole. How do we learn to embrace, to cherish, to engage with the elephants in our lives?

August 26: Justice Centered Through a Lifetime

Service Leader: Justice Team

What does it mean to be justice centered in different contexts, in different times of our lives? Members of the UUCP Justice Teams share their stories—what they have experienced, what they have learned, what inspires them as they live into their call.



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of Phoenix
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Paradise Valley, AZ 85253

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