



Horizons Journal

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix
September 2018



A Spiritual Community for Our Time

Reverend Margret A. O'Neill

Community offers the promise of belonging, and calls for us to acknowledge our interdependence. To belong is to act as an investor, owner, and creator of this place. To be welcome, even if we are strangers. As if we came to the right place and are affirmed for that choice. —Peter Block, consultant and activist

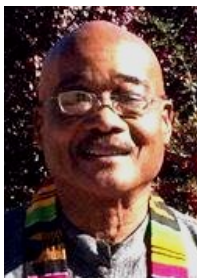
Welcoming all in building community, being and becoming a spiritual community for our time—UU Phoenix is a congregation that names community as its core purpose in both its mission and its vision. Knowing the value of belonging, UUCP works with intentionality to create and sustain community in a time when so many in our world feel isolated,

dishonored, cut adrift. The call to be a welcoming, nurturing community is a mandate for this congregation in a challenging time.

We need meaningful and supportive human relationships that make it possible for us to accept people with whom we disagree, to love people despite their crochets, and to forgive them their faults as we seek forgiveness for our own. —Conrad Wright, Unitarian historian

Living into our commitment to be a theologically diverse, radically inclusive, justice-centered community, we build meaningful relationships, creating a beacon of hope that shines the light of love and acceptance into the dark and divisive forces at work around us.

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Building Community

Anthony Johnson

Director for Congregational Life

*I*n the Spirit of building community, it is my belief that the sharing of one's story is one way to do so. I was born a Baptist in Hattiesburg, Mississippi; my mother Ruth says it was the biggest snowstorm she has ever seen. My father Howard raised us as Muslims, following the teachings of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad. I have always questioned the religions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, the big three. Somehow, they never seemed to make sense to me, though I attended Christian church and the Islamic Mosque. Instead, I always felt connected to something bigger and more mysterious.

I grew up on the south side of Chicago in what they called a tough neighborhood. I was initiated into gang life when I was about 12 years old, running the streets and getting into trouble with the law. When I was 16, we moved to the suburbs and I began

to associate with white people. I was raised to believe they were the enemy. It was quite a shock, as I had only seen or known white folks on TV and as the police. Many of these so-called enemies turned out to be my friends.

In college, I began to listen to Jazz music in general and John Coltrane in particular. It spoke to something inside of me that let me know in real terms that there was more to life than what was seen. It was in 1971 that I was given my African/Spiritual name "Mtuaswa," which in Kiswahili means "natural man." I graduated with a BA in Radio-TV-Film and went on to grad school, getting an MA in Human Learning and Development. I have studied many of the world's major religions, which I continue to do. I believe they are all man-made, which does not make them bad, but as I like to say: I have yet to meet a cloud maker. I graduated from Starr King School for

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Ministerial Search Committee Update

Often people say that they love coming to a place with so many like-minded people.

I know just what they are getting at—and I know that they aren't getting it quite right.

I don't want to be with a bunch of people who think just like me.

I want to be in a beloved community where I don't have to think like everyone else to be loved, to be eligible for salvation.

I want to be with people who value compassion, justice, love and truth, though they have different thoughts and opinions about all sorts of things.

I want to be with independent-minded people of good heart.

I want to be with people who have many names and no name at all for God.

I want to be with people who see in me goodness and dignity, who also see my failings and foibles, and who still love me.

I want to be with people who feel their inter-connection with all existence and let it guide their footfalls upon the earth.

I want to be with people who see life as a paradox and don't always rush to resolve it.

I want to be with people who are willing to walk the tight rope that is life and who will hold my hand as I walk mine.

I want to be with people who let church call them into a different way of being in the world.

I want to be with people who support, encourage and



even challenge each other to higher and more ethical living.

I want to be with people who inspire one another to follow the call of the spirit.

I want to be with people who covenant to be honest, engaged and kind, who strive to keep their promises and hold me to the promises I make.

I want to be with people who give of themselves, who share their hearts and minds and gifts.

I want to be with people who know that human community is often warm and generous, sometimes challenging and almost always a grand adventure.

In short, I want to be with people like you.

—Rev. Dana E. Worsnop

We recently opened a Ministerial Search Committee (MSC) meeting with this reading and we wanted to share it with you as we move into an important phase of our search process, which we can only accomplish WITH YOUR PARTICIPATION. We don't all think alike and your individual voice is vitally important in our search process.

On September 9, after our "Ingathering Service" where we all joyously reunite from summer activities and travels, we'll be "going live" with our Ministerial Search Survey. This is not just any old survey, but quite possibly, THE MOST IMPORTANT

SURVEY (in our opinion) you've ever taken. This is truly a survey worthy of your valuable time. So fix yourself a cup of coffee and get settled in to spend 30-40 minutes completing the survey. As our adviser, Rev. Margret, says, "UU ministers searching for a new congregation really notice when only 100 individuals answer out of a membership of 435!" How about 100%?

The survey will provide insight into who we are as a congregation. We will be asking lots of questions—about you, how you arrived at UU'ism and UUCP, your views on various topics—everything from your own spiritual or religious preferences and views, to the qualities you see in a successful minister for UUCP. We'll ask some personal questions too. And we really want you to expound in the "open questions" at the end of the survey.

The survey will run from **September 9-30**, and be sent to all members and friends of UUCP via an email link. Multiple members in the same household should each answer the survey, although there are a few demographic questions where we ask that only one member of the household answer.

The survey is anonymous; we neither ask your name, nor can we track your response. If you want help taking the survey online, we can arrange for you to receive assistance. Paper copies of survey will be made available upon request to the office.

Other than the fact that you will feel SO GREAT after you've completed the survey, there will be HUGE REWARDS and incentives during September, so stay tuned. Information from the survey will be made part of all of the materials prospective ministers will review in deciding whether to contact us about our lead minister position. Ministers will also be looking at how many of us participate as a reflection of how engaged we are. The survey also offers us a unique opportunity to know our community better. The MSC will be sharing what we learn from the survey during a special service on November 18 and in Horizons. Thank you ahead of time for your participation.

...And when we're not engaged in developing the survey, we've been:

- Preparing our UUCP "Congregational Record,"

which is a comprehensive overview of our congregation, its history, current activities and challenges, finances, and a profile of our congregational members. This is due October 30 to the UUA, and will be available online November 30 for all ministers searching for a new position. It is our first opportunity to showcase our congregation.

—and—

- Completing the application for our "Beyond Categorical Thinking" workshop, to be held **Saturday, December 1**. Facilitators from the UUA will lead us in this three-hour program designed to promote inclusive thinking and prevent unfair discrimination during a congregation's search for a settled minister. **PLEASE PLAN ON ATTENDING!**

Show your love and commitment to UUCP by taking the survey between 9/9 and 9/30. Be heard! □

Important Dates! Mark Your Calendars!

9/9-9/30: Congregational Survey

10/7: Special Service: Group Discussions
on Ministry

11/18: Voices Service: Results of Survey &
Group Discussions

12/1: Beyond Categorical Thinking
Workshop

12/2: Special Service: Rev. Keith Kron,
UUA Transitions Director

Continued from "Building..." page 1

The Ministry in 2018, having discovered Unitarian Universalism at a Travyon Martin rally in 2012. I find in Unitarian Universalism the space to continue being a seeker of spiritual knowledge and experience.

In my more than twenty years in the television and film industry, I have created and managed several nationally televised prime-time specials and managed large, high-end video post-production companies. Today, I borrow from all I have learned and continue to learn. I am what I call "A Reminder," reminding each of us of our innate connection to Spirit. I am looking forward to listening to and learning from the abundant rich stories of the beautiful people in this congregation. □



Calling all UUCP Artists, Crafters, and Lovers of Arts and Crafts!

Save the date!
Sunday, November 11, 2018
Before and After Sunday Services

Reserve your calendars for our UUCP
Arts & Crafts Fair, a fundraiser to
benefit UUCP!

Continued from "A Spiritual..." Rev. Margret, page 1

Entering a new program year, UUCP is moving through the rich discovery process of a transitional time in a nation and a world that are experiencing tumultuous change, a time of discovery and transition. This is a time in which we rely on love and community, and on the courage of our sustaining values, to be fully present to the struggle and the possibility. Now is the time when the support, the nourishment, the encouragement of our spiritual community is more important than ever. No one of us can achieve that vision of diversity, inclusion and justice on our own—it takes a community to live into a grand vision.

The time of ministerial search is unique in the life of a congregation. New questions are asked, new conversations are encouraged, as you prepare for new ministerial leadership in this time of change. Every voice, every opinion, every perspective is important in this process—the Search is a community endeavor. During September you will be invited to complete a survey about your hopes and wishes for the ministry of this congregation. Then in October you will have the opportunity to talk with each other about the values you hold for this community and the possibility into which you want to live. And then in November, the Ministerial Search Committee will bring your words back to you, and let you know what they have heard in the process.

Through this rich and rewarding transitional time, we will continue together to explore, to learn, to deepen our connections and nourish our vitality as a community based in love. We build community in the circle and around the table, sharing meals, challenging ourselves with new ideas, challenging systems of oppression and building new hope of love. Everyone is welcome to share the journey—it is going to be a simply amazing year in this community! See you at UUCP! □



Singing: the Living Tradition

Katie Resendiz

Director, Children's Ministries

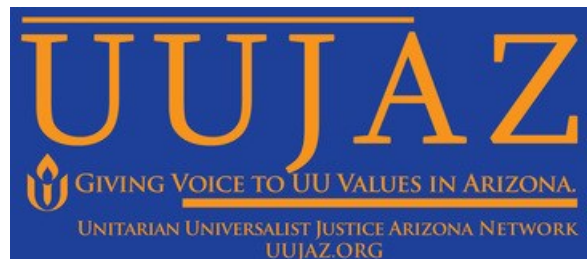
Three things I saw this summer; a viral video of Samoan wildland firefighters singing as they made their way back to camp, an eight-year-old crying in the narthex of a congregation I visited because he didn't recognize any of the songs in the order of service, and an Episcopal priest admonishing the fathers of his flock to "Sing, sing out, sing terribly. Just sing, your children need you to sing."

For the past two years, the congregation has identified monthly "together hymns." These songs align with the theme of each month, we sing them in Sunday worship, we sing them in opening and closing circles in Children's Ministry, and this year we are working to integrate these songs into community nights and small group ministries. Join us!

- Share your jams! What is your favorite music? Do the kids in your life know your "all time top 10 songs?" Make a playlist, teach a little musician the chords to the song that makes you think of your grandma, and for the love of all things: EMBRACE CAR SINGING!
- Songs are powerful! Tell the kids in your life about the way songs have shaped and inspired you. Talk to them about why you were a punk, a hippie, a pachuco, or a goth. Songs have the power to ignite, to unify, and help us survive. Do you know all the words to "We Shall Overcome," or "Gentle Angry People?" Talk to each other about why these songs have impact.
- Let's remind one another that singing in community is not an act of bravery, it is an act of community. We lift up our voices together because our voice is one thing we can give our community.
- ASL: Get online, watch people do signed interpretations of songs! We build communities

of access when we acknowledge and honor all the ways an art is accessed.

"I don't like music." Sure, but are you willing to give your voice to your community for two or three minutes? Can you help us be louder, more proud, and feel the power of being one thing? If not, why not? It must be a very strongly held belief. Tell our kids about it. They want to know why the important things are important. □



Issues & Action Day 2018

Save the Date! October 27 in Surprise: This year we'll focus on the democratic process in preparation for Election Day, and hear different perspectives on major issues confronting Arizonans. More details will soon be available on www.uujaz.org.



This Community, Ours to Build & Shape

Mary Dawes

Co-President, Board of Trustees

As the new 'season' of the Board of Trustees launches this month, we start by thinking about how we build community. A few of us on the Board are returning, including Vince Waldron and me, who are acting as Co-Presidents this year, and also Sarah Moore who will serve as Secretary. Several new members are joining us, including Larry Reed as Treasurer and Bunny Hodas, Jonny Lifshitz, and Christine Marshall, with Phoebe Dubisch and Jacob Barnum as new Youth Reps. We don't all know each other very well yet, but will work together toward the Mission and the Vision of UUCP, both of which start with community.

If I think back to when I first visited UUCP, about ten years ago, I remember the welcome when I entered the building that felt warm and personal. I was a little nervous and shy, but people were speaking to one another and mingling as they entered. I happened to see someone I had known for a couple of years, which was the divine intervention that gave me the feeling that I might fit in here. I was asked to help with something and started the 'leaning in' process. It was nice to think I had something to offer.

Ten years later and I'm on the Board, where we are working to advance our goals, to make this a place to connect, to grow in spirit, to learn together, to care for one another, and to advance justice. The Board will be watching over the search for a new minister and the construction/renovation projects this year. We are reviewing many processes, with guidance from Reverend Margret and her expertise and vantage point.

Yehuda Berg tells us: *A true community is not just about being geographically close to someone or part of the same social web network. It's about feeling connected and responsible for what happens. Humanity is our ultimate community, and everyone plays a crucial role.*

We need your support and input, and we are reaching out to members to help on teams and

committees. The shared responsibility for our experience and achieving our dreams is important; this is a participatory community. This makes me think of my interaction on Sundays and other days/activities at UUCP. I am a little introverted but have made friends now, and often seek time with them. Not a bad start, but perhaps I could reach out a little further on Sundays and enlarge my community connections. Please approach us Board Members and introduce yourself, we also have times set up to chat between services once a month in the Johnson Room (check the Compass/announcements).

We invite you to come to a Board Meeting and chat with us the fourth Tuesday of each month, 6:00 pm for mingling before the Board meets at 6:30 pm, in the Johnson Room. Each of us participates in various ways and finds others with whom we share the journey. I am inspired by the generous spirit of our members to connect and care in so many ways. Thank you for guiding me and inviting me to grow with you. I look forward to sharing the path together, in community. □



Board of Trustees Meetings:

All are welcome!

4th Tuesday of each month

6:00 pm, social

6:30 pm, business commences



Community Night Dinners

Join us in building a “Spiritual Community for our Time” every Thursday at 6:00 pm in the Johnson Room, September 13 - November 15.

Each week features the culinary talents of the members of our congregation: two entrees (one vegetarian), as well as sides, salad and bread. A donation of \$6 per adult, \$3 per child under ten, or \$12 per family, covers the cost of the meal (those experiencing financial hardship can receive a payment waiver). In the spirit of Radical Inclusion, there are vegan and gluten free options (check the menu each week in Compass), and food served is labeled for the top nine common allergens. If you’d like to join, but have additional dietary restrictions or preferences, you are welcome to bring your own meal.

Following the meal, Thursday evenings are an opportunity to deepen our knowledge of what it means to be Theologically Diverse, Radically Inclusive, and Justice Centered. A diverse offering of adult faith development classes, small groups, justice experiences, and guest lectures help us to live into the congregation’s vision. Children build community too, in Chalice Kids, free childcare between 6:30-8:30.

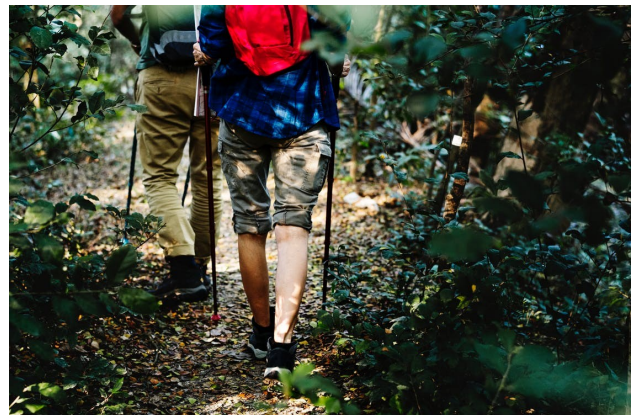
If you have any questions about Community Night, or you’d like to contribute as a Sous Chef (sides, salad, or bread) please contact communitynight@phoenixuu.org. □

Outdoor Group

It isn’t quite time to lace up those boots, but it is time to mark your calendar. Saturday, October 13, is our second annual campout at Sunset Crater Nat’l Monument, 20-30 minutes NE of Flagstaff. This action-packed weekend will get our season off to a great start, and we would love to have you join us!

Saturday morning Stephanie and Todd Haughton will be leading the hike that promises to take us through a stunningly beautiful aspen forest in the height of its fall glory. Following the hike, we will find a place for lunch and an opportunity to talk about what a wonderful morning we had. The afternoon can be a chance to relax at your campsite or do one of the beautiful hikes at Sunset Crater before we reconvene around the campfire for hotdogs and s’mores. If last year is any prediction for this year, we can count on some music and storytelling. Bring your instrument and plan on being a star! Ed and I will provide the hotdogs, and, if you are willing and able, please bring a potluck dish to share. Keep in mind, if you are not one to fancy the camping experience, motel rooms in Flagstaff are a short drive away. This is a family-friendly weekend.

The Outdoor Group is the way to get connected with people who love the outdoors, being active, and hiking. There will be further details in e-mails to everyone on our mailing list. If you would like to be added to the Outdoor Group mailing list for this and upcoming hikes, send contact info to outdoorgroup@phoenixuu.org. Your information will not be used for any purpose other than Outdoor Group business. □



2018 Auction Planning

It is still too hot, and we are all looking for that break in the weather; however, it is not too soon to be thinking about Auction Time! This year we are bringing back the auction fundraiser bigger and better than ever.

Our goal is to make it a party on the evening of December 1 with music, food, and items to bid on. We plan to have physical items, services, and events. There will be both a silent auction as well as a live auction. It must be all-inclusive in every respect. We need items, services, and events for all ages and all wallets. We want there to be something for everyone.

If you haven't yet been to or hosted an auction event, consider hosting and/or bidding on one this year. The events held in people's homes are a fantastic way to make new connections. While it may seem strange to be going to dinner with people you do not know in the home of someone you have never met, I can guarantee you within the first thirty minutes you will be comfortable and enjoying yourself with people you will want to engage with going forward. Host a home event and wonderful people show up to enjoy the party you have created.

In case you have thought about hosting an event but didn't know what to offer, your Auction Committee has put together a list of ideas for your consideration. None of these ideas are particularly fleshed out, with good reason. Find an idea that inspires you and make the magic happen. Have an idea that is not on the list? Go with it! On a limited budget? Consider having a fun event and making it a potluck. UUers know how to do potlucks!

Please email auction@phoenixuu.org to sign up to host an event, offer a service, or place a wonderful physical object up for bid. This year all of the proceeds will go to the general fund for UUCP. Help support this wonderful beloved community. Join in the AUCTION FUNdraising!

Auction Ideas:

EVENTS

- Offer horseback rides
- Hire a speaker that might have an inspirational, justice, or timely message
- Offer one show or concert from a season tickets package
- Host two or more people at a baseball or football game or other sporting event
- Host two or more people at a spring training game
- Offer one or more painting, music, dance classes
- Host brunch at a restaurant or cafe for two or more people

THEMED PARTIES

- Host a Kentucky derby watch party (mint juleps, hats . . .)
- Host an Indianapolis 500 watch party
- Host an Irish dinner/lunch for St. Patrick's day
- Host a Scrabble party
- Host a Mardi Gras event (lunch/dinner)
- Host an Academy Awards or Golden Globes party
- Host a Cinco de Mayo party
- Host an Hawaiian, Mexican, Native American, Japanese, Eritrean dinner, discussing foods and recipes (ethnicity not limited to this list!)
- Host high tea for adults
- Host a wine and cheese tasting/pairing event
- Host a vegan dinner from soup to nuts
- Host an ice cream social

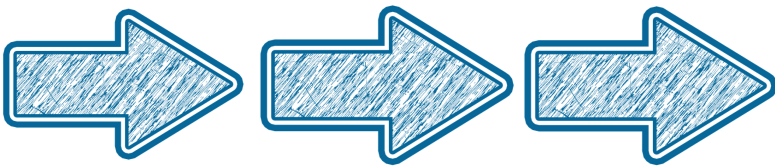
SERVICES

- Offer to put up and take down holiday decorations or lights at someone's house
- Offer gift wrapping for holiday or birthday presents
- Offer a ride to and from anywhere in a 20-mile radius during the day/night

- Offer computer classes or assistance with programs like Word or Excel
- Offer any service that people might find useful that you have a talent for
- Offer knitting or crochet classes
- Offer to cook someone dinner in their home

CHILDREN'S EVENTS

- Host a child's unbirthday party with costumes
- Host a child's party offering a juggler or a magician
- Host a child's tea party
- Host a child's swim party
- Host one or more children at one of the water-parks
- Offer a rent-a-grandparent childcare service for an evening away from the wee ones
- Host a half-year birthday party at a kid's home complete with cake and party games. □



Registration & More Info for
Adult Faith Development
offerings can be found at:

– **phoenixuu.org/afd** –

Questions: AFD@phoenixuu.org

Adult Faith Development

So many great AFD opportunities are coming to UUCP this fall! Check out those that begin or take place in September:

Spiritual Practices with Anthony Johnson – begins 9/13

The objective of these sessions is to help you deepen your spiritual life by engaging in a daily practice, weekly worship, monthly service, yearly retreat, and one-time pilgrimage. Attend all 13, or choose those that appeal to you.

Turning Judgements into Questions: Strategies for collaborative problem-solving with Trudi Murch – 9/13

For this session we will discuss a collaborative problem-solving process that encourages broad exploration of a situation, promotes self-reflection and identification of strengths and resources for planning.

Implicit & Explicit Bias: Self-reflection & why our Biases Matter with Dr. Stuart Rhoden – 9/20

This workshop will discuss implicit and explicit bias and how it influences us as individuals, society, public education, and beyond.

Jagged Rocks with Mikall Foerster – 9/27

Bring the goliaths of your life/community/family—and with a HOW (honest, open-minded, willing) spirit, you may discover answers that were already inside of you,

BLUUbox – begins 9/27

The Black Lives of UU (BLUU) Spiritual Subscription Box is a unique opportunity to connect one's beliefs to faith-led action and build community with others dedicated to justice-making and liberation.



Unicare News

We lift up those in our community who share their joys, transitions, sorrows and wishes.

May they find strength in the love of community.

Remembrances:

Mary Dokes remembers her mother, Elizabeth Leshner Boardman, who died in June under hospice care. Mary and her sister Janet were bedside with their mother sharing pictures and memories as she passed at age 88.

Healing Wishes & Transitions:

We wish a full recovery to Donna Talbot as she heals from August knee replacement surgery.

Amy Miskell is feeling good since her recent GI surgery, feeling spunky in her new clothes and grateful for all the support and kind wishes she has received.

We lift up Billie Butler who, as of this writing, shared that her son Brett is recovering from a complex open heart surgery.

Healing wishes go out to Kathy Baughman as she continues to recovery from her broken leg.

Milestones and Celebrations:

Congratulations! To Alison Kenady on the arrival of granddaughter Amiah Joy on 8/16.

The Boecker-Grieme family is delighted to share that Colin was selected to join the Phoenix Youth Symphony String Orchestra.

Are you interested in sharing your love and a little time to support others in our UU community? Consider joining the Unicare e-Group. We welcome those with caring hearts and able hands who wish to put them to good use with our team of compassionate volunteers. We provide support by sending cards/notes, emails, an occasional meal or

providing transportation. You choose when you wish to participate. To sign up or for more information, contact Vicki Myers at unicare@phonenixuu.org. □

Memorial Garden

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

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

Memorial Service

Rev. Arnold Thaw, PhD
Saturday, September 15, 11:00 am, UUCP

Rev. Thaw served our UU movement as a minister, co-founded the Gestalt Institute of Phoenix, and was an active member and Minister of Counseling at UUCP. Rev. Thaw died on July 15, 2018, and all are welcome to celebrate his life of service and love.

September Worship Theme: **Community**

Two-service schedule begins September 16

September 2 & 9 at 10:30 am

September 2: When Things Fall Apart: How I Spent My Summer Vacation

Service Leader: Rev. Kathy Baughman

When life throws us nasty curve balls it can feel like things are falling apart. That curve ball, calamity, or loss changes our lives. The mosaic of our lives is altered. The spiritual work is to access personal, communal and transcendent resources, reshaping that altered mosaic to once again reflect balance, joy and hope.

September 9: The Eternal and the New

Service Leader: Rev. Margret A. O'Neill

Water is universal, eternal, ever-changing. Each year we celebrate a new program year with the ritual of Water Communion. Flowing in continuity and change, returning to familiar spaces, we welcome the new into our lives. Bring water to share from home or summer travels, or use water we provide here.

September 16, 23 & 30 at 9:30 and 11:15 am

September 16: The Beauty of Community

Service Leader: Anthony N. Johnson

Asking for what you need is the beauty of community. Needing one another is the beauty of community. Bringing your gifts is the beauty of community. Sharing your weaknesses is the beauty of community. Anthony shares his spiritual journey and addresses the question: Who is that new dude in the pulpit?

September 23: How to Empower Your Mind

Service Leader: Bhante Suhjatha

The ancient texts of the Buddha tell us that no external condition can be the cause of our happiness; only the mind has that ability. When people understand the root causes of struggle and what we can do with our minds to make things better, sustainable happiness and radiant joy are the result.

September 30: Congregation on the Cusp

Service Leader: Rev. Margret A. O'Neill

Transitions raise many questions about how we live into our potential, learning to respond to changing times. This is especially true as this congregation articulates your dreams for the future ministry here. What does it mean to be on the cusp of change, living a liberal faith responsive to our time?

American Sign Language interpreter available at some services.

See phoenixuu.org/worship/asl for most recent details.



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