



# Unitarian Universalist Village Church

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Jerry Offermann '16

## MARCH 2017 Theme — Freedom



### A message from Rev. Ruffin

Love bridges the gaps...

As Unitarians, we've inherited the core guiding principle of belief in the inherent worth and dignity of every human being. This is the legacy of early Unitarian Christians that believed Jesus to have expressed this through his life and teachings, revealing everyone, like him, to be a son (or daughter) of God, with an inherent divine spark. As Universalists we inherited our core belief that no one is excluded in the Beloved Community - that love's welcoming embrace is for everyone, regardless of color, creed, gender, faith, or failures, etc.

But what really makes us who we are is that, rather than aligning ourselves around the religious doctrines from which these core values first emerged, or any other more recently adopted doctrines for that matter, we are bound together by the free choice to share the journey of trying to live our values out. The trick is that what becomes the glue of growth in our communities, is that our covenant (or sacred promise) to walk, seek, and serve together in the spirit of love, sets us up for inevitable failure. We can't possibly always offer the kind of love that embraces all and honors the inherent worth and dignity of each. Sometimes we can't even offer that embrace to ourselves. So, in essence, we come together in a covenant to fail and forgive together, to grow together through this, re-covenant and repeat. We practice living in covenant so that we all might individually and collectively draw nearer to the ideals we cherish, gradually growing into greater "harmony with the good."

To be a UU you need not have the hubris to believe we can be good by sheer will of a promise. Our sacred commitment is to a practice that we trust will shape our minds, hearts and lives over time. We even trust that practicing our covenant to affirm and promote our core values, is the best way that we, *with time*, can help shape our world. Covenant, in this way, is both the goal and the means.

As I told you on Sunday, it was with great regret that I could not keep my commitment to stay and serve you as your minister through June. But it was, in the end, an incredible opportunity for me to experience being loved and supported anyway, and see how, in fact, when things got a little messy, the love at the heart of this community only grew stronger.

For this I am deeply grateful. Whatever stage in our journey, we all need opportunities to experience such "love beyond messiness." Your covenantal commitments make this a gift you can uniquely share with one another. So I hope you take this opportunity friends. Bring your whole self into this community – your passionate conviction and your questions, your brokenness and beauty, your mind and your heart. Make promises you can't keep. Give love the chance to break into the equation and transform it. Love will bridge the gaps.

<b>MARCH Sundays at UUVC</b>
<b>January Attendance: All Souls webcast, 71 UUVC, 422</b>
Share the Plate: CASA, \$963.50
March Share the Plate: Jackson House
March 5, Worship, Rev. Steve Williams, "True North"
March 12, Insight, Rabbi Levy
March 19, Worship, Rev. Mark Waltz
March 26, Insight, Kai Coggins, Poetry

## President's Column

UUVC President Court Mathey



Change is to be expected!

It was January 31, 2015 when Susan Smith led a workshop about our future, what we aimed for and how we would get there. We built on that and in the summer of 2015 we got committees going and developed a task force and had in-depth discussion groups.

Changes!

We decided to get a part time developmental minister, created a UUA website, made contact with Rev. David Ruffin, who was soon to be ordained, met with him through phone and Skype and agreed on a contract. Then August 2016 he started with us.

Changes!

Rev. Dave has brought us music, more covenant groups, rewire and non-violent communication but has cut short his service with us because of illness, and is now on another pathway in his life. I feel we are stronger and more prepared to enter the next phase, very possibly with the Rev. Mark Walz. By March 19 he will have been our worship leader and if we can agree on the details we will have an agreement in place to have him as our minister for a defined time period. Hopefully he would start about August and will bring to us a strong background in business and then a new vocation of being a minister for 15 years in the Dallas area.

What a lot of changes and a lot of progress. And how could we accomplish so much? Because of so many proactive and talented volunteers.

We must maintain our momentum as we await the presence of a new skilled leader.

## MEMBERSHIP CORNER UPCOMING EVENT



The Membership Committee invites New Friends and frequent Visitors to a "GETTING TO KNOW US FIRST" gathering at UUVC on April 6 at 3.00 pm.

Not sure if membership in UUVC is right for you? Join us for light refreshments and friendly conversation. Come with QUESTIONS, leave with ANSWERS.

Sign-up sheet will be in the Community Hall in March. Please contact Quay O'Hara at 922-1920 or Pam Harrison at 915-8382 for further information. Hope to see you on April 6.

## Treasurer's Report

Kim Townsman

All Members and Friends supporting UUVC through our pledge process should have received a statement in February as to the status of their operating fund and/or building fund pledges. As a reminder, our annual budget is based on the pledge commitment made by members and friends. Through January, we are running slightly behind on our pledge income ... in addition have lower non-pledge contributions. Meeting an outstanding pledge commitment is vital to the funding of UUVC's operations.

And if you'd like to review UUVC's financial status, be sure to check out UUVC's new website. To access the financials, go to the MEMBERS & FRIENDS link at the top of the home page. Select FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS to see the Operating Budget and Monthly Operating Fund Report. You will need to know the password to access Financials. We will also be adding to FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS section, our Balance Sheet and Financial Overview Sheet. **If you are a Committee Chair with budget responsibilities,** the Monthly Operating Fund Report provides actual and budget information for each line item in our budget. A quick way to get status of spend and available budget dollars for your areas of responsibility.

We will soon be "Springing" into the financial activities that come in the latter part of our fiscal year. Budget and Pledging ... go hand in hand ... and need "all hands" involvement as we support each other as stewards of UUVC.

*The liberty of all is necessary for the liberty of each.*

H. J. Blackman

## Building News

TerryLynne Marx

After a request, the POA has erected a yellow diamond-shaped sign with CHURCH written on it to help identify our Calella entrance.

# What's Happening

*Louis C. Studer*  
18441 N. 87<sup>th</sup> Avenue. #207E - Peoria, AZ 85382-8564  
Home Phone: 623-243-9812 - Email: [lcstuder@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lcstuder@sbcglobal.net)

## *Farewell Photos of Louie & Friends at HSV Universalist Unitarian*



## Social Action Committee

Alana Clegg, Chair



Eighteen more computers were delivered to Langston School in February and fifty-seven bins of food have been delivered to Jackson House so far.

March Share the Plate will be Jackson House and Suzanne Babbie will come to speak before the offering is taken.

The request for household and hygiene items for the 3 Clarion Call homes was very successful. Alana Clegg has delivered 2 car loads of cleaning materials and supplies, including bath towels, dish towels, mop, pail, paper towels, toothbrushes, toothpaste, bath soap, shampoo etc. In addition, a member who will be moving soon has donated several items of furniture for the women's home, such as, beds, bedding, chairs, a loveseat-recliner, chests of drawers, bookcase, computer desk, plates, cups, kitchen utensils and has promised more on the day of her departure. Mr. Scott, the manager, came with a truck and trailer to collect the furniture and is happy to return as soon as he gets the word. By February 18 all 3 homes will be at capacity, 5 people per house. Still needed are more hygiene items: disposable razors, shave cream, shampoo, toilet paper, deodorant, toothbrushes and toothpaste. In addition, dish washing liquid, laundry detergent, floor cleaning supplies, brooms, etc. are also needed. Thanks to all who have donated so far. Mr. Scott is willing to come to church to talk about Clarion Call at any time. He's very personable and hard working and genuinely believes in the program.

## Social Committee

Cindy Nance Bari Searls



The Chili Cook-Off will be Saturday, March 4 Hall. The Social Committee will provide and coffee. You will be able to blind-taste each 2nd, and 3rd places will be awarded. Bring a serving spoon or ladle. Please bring you the contest. Please do not take Crockpots to Crockpot is registered. Let's top last year when there were 20 Crockpots in the contest.



at noon. A sign-up sheet will be in the Community cornbread muffins, saltines, cookies, beer, iced tea of the Chili dishes and vote on your favorite. 1st, Crockpot of your favorite Chili recipe, along with a Crockpot to the kitchen where it will be registered for the display tables; staff will do that after each

Also, the Social Committee will need the assistance of some strong men to help carry heavy Crockpots to and from the kitchen as well as cleanup after the event. Please let Bari know if you will help or have questions.

## Fourth Friday Film Fest

Cloe Bayer



Our film for March will be "Captain Fantastic", starring Viggo Mortensen. No, it is not a movie about a super hero! Deep in the forest of the Pacific Northwest, isolated from society, a devoted father dedicates his life to transforming his six young children into extraordinary adults. But when tragedy strikes the family, they are forced to leave this self created paradise and begin a journey into the outside world. Captain Fantastic's thought provoking themes and the Oscar nominated performance of Viggo Mortensen, add up to an above average family drama with unexpected twists. The character of the father has the nickname of a comic book hero, the brains of a scholar, and the soul of a rebel. And his story is a richly rewarding experience. It is a rare movie that asks such big questions about family, modern day America – and comes up with answers that are moving and meaningful, that make you laugh and cry. Movie audiences gave it an 85% approval rating, and we think you will too.



## Upholding our UU Values

Jeriann Nielsen



You are invited to participate with a local activist group in support of **Upholding our UU Values**. We have formed a phone tree and an email group to notify you of any need for responsive action. This may be notification for you to contact your state or national senators or representatives, of your support or opposition, to committee work or pending bills to be introduced in the legislature. You will be provided with a brief synopsis of the bill or issue, contact names, phone numbers, and email addresses of appropriate legislators. In addition, it may be information of upcoming rallies, marches, or town hall meetings. We are acting in concert with the Declaration of Conscience published by the UUA and UUSC. <http://www.uua.org/action/show-love/declaration-conscience>. If you wish to join the group or have any questions, contact:

Phone tree – Steve Rittenmeyer, (501) 915-0575, <mailto:SD-Rittenmeyer@wiu.edu>

Email group – Jerriann Nielsen, (501) 915-8750, <mailto:jerriann.nielsen@sbcglobal.net>

*Without freedom of expression, liberty of thought is a mockery.*

Felix Frankfurter

*No man is good enough to govern another man without that other man's consent.*

Abraham Lincoln



### Birthdays

3/2	John Bowers
3/8	Cindy Perez
3/8	Alan Trippel
3/9	John Yeomans
3/14	Jack lafrate
3/19	Dennis Abraham
3/24	Judy Bowers
3/27	Anne Flueckiger
3/27	Terry McCoy
3/28	Quay O'Hara
3/29	Bari Searls



### Anniversaries

3/10	Peggy & Terry McCoy
3/18	Marlene & Mike Kloack
3/23	Nell Brewer & George Tatum
3/26	Martha & Darrell Graham

## Resolve Your Conflicts

Steve Rittenmeyer

The Conflict Resolution Committee stands ready confidentially to assist members and friends in resolving disputes and misunderstandings with other congregants that affect their lives in church. For more information about the conflict resolution process, please contact:

Steve Rittenmeyer, 915-0575,  
SD-Rittenmeyer@wiu.edu  
or  
Cloe Bayer, 922-3810,  
cloebayer29@sbcglobal.net

## DENOMINATIONAL DOINGS

Myra Rustin

Head -- and hearts -- up, members and friends and anyone who likes us enough to participate: UUVC is hosting Arkansas Spring Cluster from Friday afternoon, May 5th through Saturday, May 6th, and I am forming the committee to join me in making this happen.

In addition to being recipients of my unending gratitude, you will meet and mingle with a merry, committed band Arkansas UUs who are determined to know one another better from church to church throughout the state. The program will be varied and stimulating enough to appeal to the many UU areas of interest, service and what keeps our unique and caring community informed and enthusiastic.

You know the work and enthusiasm that goes into events and celebrations at UUVC -- from planning, to set-up, to food and beyond --and I hope you will contact me to become part of what I know will be a great success with your generous participation.

Please call me at 501-204-4999, or email me at [mrustin@snet.net](mailto:mrustin@snet.net). Or, flag me down when you see me. Thanks so much!

## Poetry Corner

### MEET YOUR MEDIATOR

Myra Rustin

I had no real idea  
that UUVC had CRC  
till new member orientation  
peaked interest in me.

Describing Conflict Resolution,  
Cloe quickly zeroed in  
on a look that said *that's just for me*  
*your needs, my skills, are twin.*

Born in conflict, raised to debate,  
I knew there had to be  
A better way to clear the air  
to reach some harmony.

True, I am a writer of poetry and prose  
but know beyond vocation  
that mediation saves the day  
in varied combination.

My career kaleidoscopic,  
from words to food, both far and near  
and everywhere I found the need  
to communicate, to listen, hear.

Steve, Cloe, Daryl, Tom  
Janet, Bud and I discuss;  
we learn and share work to be there  
in hope you never need us.



Try the UUVC Website:  
[www.uuvc.org](http://www.uuvc.org)

# Interest Groups (IGs)

Ronnie Zuege, IG Coordinator



Enjoy the company of people with a similar interest by participating in one of the Interest Groups (IG). Stop by the IG table on Sunday mornings to check out the folders that provide information about each group. It's great to participate in more than one.

Also, if you have a special interest that is not currently represented, contact me (501-781-8489 or email: [vzuege@gmail.com](mailto:vzuege@gmail.com)) to inquire about starting a new group.

## Game Night



Come to play board/card games on the 2nd Saturday of each month (March 11.) Game night will be held @ **5:00 PM**. We will eat first and play games afterwards. Bring a dish to share. It's always a surprise! (Marjorie Lakey)

## Fourth Friday Film Fest

Please watch the bulletin for information on the film selection but please mark March 24, at 7pm on your calendars for the next film night. (Cloe Bayer)



## Grief Support Group



The Grief Support Group has been meeting since November 2009, providing comfort and support to those who wish to attend. Grief Support meets the second Monday of each month, at 10:00am. (Cynthia Saalfield, 915-8577)

## Dinners for Eight (or 7, or 6)

Our next "dinners" series will start soon (for months March, April, May and June). Sunday, March 5 is the cut-off date to sign up. Everyone is encouraged to join us in this social UU activity. It is a great way to meet people in the church. Ask those who currently participate and they will tell you how much fun it is.



Food and friendship is the goal of this activity so sign up now at the IG table at church or by calling me. (Liz Miller 922-5457.)

## Social Justice Book Group



Please contact me if you would like to join the group for the discussion. Meg Koziar -- [Kozimeg@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Kozimeg@sbcglobal.net).

*What is the value of political freedom but as a means to moral freedom?*

Henry David Thoreau

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UUVC**