

# Unitarian Universalist Church Newsletter

17540 N. Avenue of the Arts, Surprise, AZ 85378-2581

Phone: 623.875.2550 // [www.uusurpriseaz.org](http://www.uusurpriseaz.org) // Email: [uucsaz2@gmail.com](mailto:uucsaz2@gmail.com)

The Newsletter of Unitarian Universalist Church, Surprise, AZ is published monthly except August.

**Minister:** Rev. Terry Sims

**Minister Emeritus:** Rev. Dr. Walt F. Wieder

**President:** Pat Lindgren



40th Anniversary 1975 - 2015

**Newsletter Editor:** Charlie Mannino

[uucsnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:uucsnewsletter@gmail.com)

**Printing:** Kathryn Pabich  
November 2019

## From The Minister's Desk

One of the activities I enjoyed this summer was traveling to the international barbershop singing convention. This year it was held in Salt Lake City. Although I have never been inspired to join a barbershop quartet or chorus myself, my brother-in-law, John, and my nephew, J.P., have been singing barbershop for many years and are very active in the national and constituent organizations. So I ended up going to the convention this year with my sister, Ronda, and her husband, John.



All of the barbershop activities were held in and around Temple Square, where the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons) has its Temple, headquarters, and a 22,000 seat auditorium in their own LDS Convention Center. The LDS Church is, of course, a central and prominent fixture in Salt Lake City. As I was roaming about Temple Square, I noted many young LDS men missionaries (elders) and young women (sisters). The latter were serving as guides for tour groups. I read some testimonies of people portrayed in photos and murals in the Convention Center and listened to some of the stories of prominent LDS members. There seemed to be much outward conformity and observance of LDS doctrine. But I had no reason to suspect that any of that was not grounded in sincere belief and practice. That started me thinking about piety and sanctimony.

Piety, a virtue, is a private devotion to religious beliefs, an inward spirituality. Most conceptions

of piety incorporate humility as a key element. Sanctimony, in contrast, is a public show of a supposed piety that casts suspicion on the latter. It is an affected or hypocritical holiness, i.e., acting as if one is morally superior to other people.

“Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.’ And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other.” (Luke 18:10–14)

I so often rush to characterize people I disagree with or dislike as sanctimonious rather than pious; the Pharisee rather than the publican. But in so doing, I make myself uncomfortable. Because I know that appearances can be deceiving. And even if I knew the truth of whether someone is actually practicing a humble and real religious devotion rather than only pretending to do so, I am reminded of my own failings. “Judge not, lest you be judged.” (Matthew 7:1) I do not want others to try to read my heart based on their vague observations of me. So I want to avoid drawing conclusions about whether they are spiritually conscientious or just hoping to appear so. I am glad that it is not up to me to take the measure of another person's spiritual life.

The truth I keep having to remind myself of is that I cannot observe, judge, or imitate anyone else's piety. I can only work on my own. I find that truth embodied in our first four Principles: “inherent worth and dignity of every person”; “justice, equity,

and compassion in human relations;” “acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;” “a free and responsible search for truth and meaning.” My own challenges to live according to the UU Principles ought to leave me little time to question the devotion of others to their religious precepts, whether I agree with those precepts or not.

We can observe what others do and say. But sincere commitment to religious principles, to the search for our spiritual best, is ultimately, necessarily, and only an individual matter – private, unobservable, or shared only with the Ground of Our Being. But the joy of community, of this congregation, is that while I struggle privately, I do not struggle alone. I’ll see you in church.

Yours in our faith,



## Medical Aid in Dying

Please join Dr. Dwight Moore, representing Death with Dignity in Arizona, on Sunday, November 10, starting at approximately noon after our worship service, for a presentation lasting between 30 and 45 minutes on the subject of medical aid in dying. Part of the discussion will cover:

How people want their lives to end: Journal of American Society on Aging 2015

- At home with loved ones with pain and discomfort managed
- Having their spiritual needs respected without being a devastating burden to their loved ones
- How does Medical Aid in Dying answer those needs?

Medical Aid in Dying is a medical practice in 9 states + Washington DC, that allows mentally capable, terminally ill adults to request a prescription for life-ending medication from their physician, which the person may self-administer, if and when he/she chooses.

---

**Please have information for the Newsletter submitted by Noon on the 15th of each month to the Editor, Charlie Mannino at [uucsnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:uucsnewsletter@gmail.com)**

## The Monthly Book Report

MaryAnne Balzer

Welcome to the Fall season faithful readers! We have held our new book fair; and now we will be featuring monthly reading displays associated with the sermon monthly topic. Be sure to follow information in the weekly e-blast for display dates. Below are more new books we have added to our collection as well as a recently donated popular classic:

***“After the Good News,”*** by Nancy McDonald Ladd. The author calls religious progressives to greater authenticity and truth-telling rather than mere optimism.

***“The Unitarian Universalist Pocket Guide,”*** Sixth Edition, by our current UU President the Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray. This is a modernization of our standard UU guide for all interested people and current members.

***“When I am an old woman I shall wear purple,”*** Edited by Sandra Haldeman Martz. This donated read is a collection of 60 writings on women living in their later years. It is an award winning anthology.

Below are a couple of reviews of other current books in our Library:

***“Wisdom Walk,”*** subtitled: nine practices for creating peace and balance from the world’s spiritual traditions, by Sage Bennet, number 204.4 BEN. The author is an ordained minister who experienced a crisis of faith. She presents in this book practices from major faiths to help us all. “It is a simple, easy to follow guide for bringing the world’s spiritual traditions into your own life through practical, powerful rituals,” from the book. Included are practices from Hindu, Buddhism, Islam, Christianity, Judaism, Native American, Tao, and New Thought.

***“The Leap Years,”*** subtitled: women reflect on change, loss and love, edited by Mary Anne Maier and Joan Shaddox Isom, number 305.4 MAI. This book is a collection of works from 30 women authors grappling with varieties of change in their lives. These are all authentic stories full of humanity. “We come to life’s changes in different ways and we leave them as different people,” from the book. It is a beautiful testament to change.

*Have a blessed day shared with a great UU Library read!*

# Social Justice at UU Surprise Saying, “You Matter,” to Mind, Body and Spirit

*Maggi Mahan*

**YES-- we have individuals in our community** who are committed to social justice movements, projects, and activities throughout Surprise, Phoenix, Arizona, the USA, and the World.

**YES- -we have an actual Social Justice Committee. Please join us.** Committee membership is open to everyone interested in joining the group. We do not have regular meetings. Members are on an email list, and we meet as opportunities and challenges arise. Tom Reemtsma, our chair, guides our efforts and various members contribute perspectives, skills, and time. We all help with project planning and guidance for long-term endeavors.

**YES- - we have a Social Justice Theme, adopted to help focus our efforts - “Mind, Body, and Spirit”**  
We seek to identify ways that our members and friends can participate in activities that nurture our own spirits and the spirits of others, nurture the minds of young students and teens, address nutritional needs of adults, teens, and children, and say to those we help, “You Matter.”

**YES- -we can help you with resources that express your passion:** whether it be Climate Change, Prison Reform, Immigration, Educational Justice, UUJusticeArizona, UUUnitedNationsOrganization, UUServiceCommittee, or other organizations, we can help you get connected.

**YES – we are currently focusing on plans for November and December as we near the Holidays**

1. If you are interested in learning more about the Reading Buddy program at Surprise Elementary, please contact Juliet Gustavson at [julietgus@msn.com](mailto:julietgus@msn.com)
2. This year we will again have a Gift Ornament Tree for Homeless Youth Connection (HYC) teens. We expect to have the tree decorated with student requests in early November. Due date for purchased gifts to be delivered to the church: Sunday, December 8
3. We encourage members to participate in the Valley View Food Bank Thanksgiving Turkey

Drive. Donated turkeys may be delivered during the week of November 18 to thrift stores in Sun City and Sun City West or to Valley View headquarters at the El Mirage location at 12321 NW Grand Ave, next to Food City.

4. We will also provide assistance to Homeless Youth Connection (HYC) during the Thanksgiving holiday. They are requesting individuals who will be available to deliver Thanksgiving baskets to students in the days leading up to Thanksgiving.
5. We have been researching ways that UU Surprise might support a program, which several churches in Surprise have initiated, for emergency housing. There are multiple ways to participate. Similar efforts are ongoing in Tempe, Mesa, and Avondale. More on this in January.

***Overwhelmed by the opportunities?***

***Maybe this list will help:***

- **Friday, Nov. 1..** Deadline for HYC teens to submit their Holiday Wish List to HYC
- **Tuesday, Nov. 12** .....Deadline for UU Surprise members and friends to sign up to deliver Thanksgiving Baskets to HYC Teens - (email Maggi Mahan at [magathalee@gmail.com](mailto:magathalee@gmail.com) or sign up in the Social Hall; indicate days and times you are available to make deliveries)
- **Friday, Nov. 15**..... HYC delivers Wish Lists to UU Surprise
- **Sunday, Nov. 17** .....Unveiling of HYC Gift Tree at UU Surprise
- **Monday, Nov. 18 - 22**..... Individuals Donate Turkeys to Valley View Food Bank; Deliver to Thrift Stores in Sun City and Sun City West or to 12321 NW Grand Avenue
- **Tuesday, Nov. 26 - 27**.....Thanksgiving Baskets delivered to HYC Teens by those who have volunteered - HYC will contact you about your route prior to delivery day
- **Sunday, Dec. 8**.....Last day to bring purchased HYC Gifts to UU Surprise
- **Friday, Dec. 13**.... Deadline for Delivering Gifts to HYC

## Musings from the Loft!

Debby Bullins, Music Director



November brings many opportunities to bring music into your life.

Rise early on November 17 when we will welcome the **Hakuna Matata Children's Choir** for a Special Music Event beginning at 10:00 a.m. Hakuna Matata Children's Choir is made up of children from Kenya East Africa.

Most of these children are from the slums and from a very poor background. Connect with a Child Children's Choir is dedicated to spreading love, hope and joy while raising awareness for the desperate plight of orphans and other vulnerable children. The non-profit, Connect With A Child, [connectwithachild.org](http://connectwithachild.org), includes programs that support orphanages, drill wells to provide clean drinking water for the community and is devoted to helping provide education to many poor and orphaned children in Kenya. The choir is in the U.S. to try raise funds and resources to help build their school in Kenya.

Their colorful clothing, pounding drums and sweet voices demonstrate their hope and dream for a brighter future. Their inspirational stories of resilience have instilled hope in the hearts of all those who have seen them perform.

Hakuna Matata Children's Choir only consists of children that have been sponsored by different families who gave them the opportunity to better their future life through education over the years.



Accompanied by a team of adults, the Choir present Connect with a Child vision and mission in every place they visit. The experience they acquire

from travelling around the world gives the children exposure to other cultures broadening their world view. It also gives them confidence and boldness and helps them rise up out of their own situations of sadness and despair.

Please come join the experience and support their cause.

November is also a perfect time to explore your inner musician. Join the UUC Surprise choir in learning the music for their Lessons and Carols service on December 15. We are beginning our rehearsals on October 31 @ 1:30 p.m. This is an opportunity for you to be a part of this wonderful all music service. All ages are welcome and no previous experience is required! We rehearse on Sunday mornings before service from 9:00 – 10:00 am. We are a fun loving, welcoming group. Contact me at [uucsmusic@gmail.com](mailto:uucsmusic@gmail.com) if you want more information or come and talk to me anytime. Please contact me for more details and let your joy out!



## Shared Thanksgiving Dinner, Thursday, November 28, 2019

Bonnie and Ken Saunders will host the Shared Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner on Thursday, November 28, 2019, beginning with Appetizers at 2:00 p.m. and Dinner at 3:00 p.m. Bonnie and Ken will provide two turkeys, with stuffing and gravy. We encourage members and friends to come and bring guests to this Church Community Event. Bring your choice from the following kinds of potluck dishes: other main dishes, appetizers, vegetable dishes, other side dishes, breads, cranberry sauces, salads, desserts, or your special favorite dish. Sign up in the Social Hall and tell us what kind of potluck dish you will bring.

## Autumnal Greetings, Congregation!

*Lisa Lawrence, DRE*

Over the past several years there have been numerous trending challenges for the sake



of charity, posterity, and sometimes, plain stupidity. There's the ever popular Polar Plunge, the Ice Bucket Challenge and the Ghost Pepper Challenge to name a few. Lately, there's been a challenge making the rounds in certain liberal religious education classrooms and it's called "The 7 Principle

Challenge." It's not painful, dangerous or scary and when you succeed, you feel good about yourself and earn a candy bar.

The children have been tasked with reciting the kid's version of the 7 principles as follows: 1. Each person is important; 2. Be kind in all you do; 3. We're free to learn together; 4. In search for what is true; 5. All people need a voice; 6. In a fair and peaceful world; 7. We care for the Earth and all of its' creatures. So far, we have 4 students that have completed the challenge and our goal is to be 100% by the end of the season. Perhaps we should turn this into a church-wide initiative? Could you pass the challenge?

In the classrooms our K-5th graders are having a lot of fun with the Dr. Seuss curriculum and have realized that there's a lot more than rhyming going on in those stories. The middle-schoolers have been having some really deep discussions revolving around their Ted Talks. This has been a really constructive way for them to see how the 7 principles fit into everyday life. Finally, in the preschool room the children have just completed a unit on Family and will be moving on to one about Feelings.

This year's intergenerational holiday play will be presented on Sunday, December 8th during service and planning is well underway. In keeping theme with our curriculum, the performance this year will be "How the Grinch Stole Christmas." The Grinch is a tale of transformation, redemption and hope and is filled with clever, catchy music and very memorable characters. I hope you enjoy it.

## Support the Outlaw Dirty Money Voter Initiative

*Michael C. Piper*

Nine years ago, in a 5-4 vote, the United States Supreme Court issued the Citizens United decision. In Citizens United, the Court held that the free speech clause of the First Amendment to the Constitution prohibits the government from restricting independent expenditures for communications.

This landmark decision unleashed a flood of political contributions. Prior to Citizens United, there was \$143 million in campaign spending from outside groups during the 2008 election cycle. By 2016, that spending rose to \$1.4 billion, a nine-fold increase.

Today, wealthy and powerful people pour unlimited amounts of cash into our elections while shielding their identities. They operate in secret, hiding behind legal barriers to keep us from knowing who they are.

I believe Arizonans have the right to make voting decisions based on full information, including who is spending money to influence our votes. That is why I'm gathering signatures to put an Arizona constitutional amendment on next year's general election ballot.

This non-partisan amendment effort, led by former Attorneys General Terry Goddard and Tom Horne, says Arizonans have a right to know where the money in politics comes from. It would require those who spend more than \$20,000 to influence statewide races (or \$10,000 in local races) to report the original source of their funding.

To learn more, or to back the campaign, please see the [outlawdirtymoney.com](http://outlawdirtymoney.com) website. If you would like to voice your support for putting this proposed amendment on the November 2020 election ballot, I'll have petitions available for your signature in the Social Hall before and after upcoming Sunday services.

Let's make 2020 the year when we secure our right to know who is funding political campaigns. Let's put the Outlaw Dirty Money constitutional amendment on the ballot and pass it in November 2020. With your help, we can do this.



Visit our web site for current information [www.uusurpriseaz.org](http://www.uusurpriseaz.org)

Unitarian Universalist Church of Surprise

A Progressive, Inclusive Faith Community

WELCOME



Suggested language for including UU Church of Surprise in your will or estate plan:

I herein give and bequeath \$\_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_ percent of the rest, remainder and residue of my estate, or the proceeds from the sale of real estate by my estate that I own located at \_\_\_\_\_ to the Unitarian Universalist Church of Surprise located at 17540 N. Avenue of the Arts, Surprise, AZ 85378-2581.

Federal tax ID # \_\_\_\_\_

For more information about creating a legacy to the UU Church of Surprise Please call Brooks Marshall at 623-362-1195

Including a gift to UU Church of Surprise Arizona in your will or estate plan helps your church in its mission of providing a liberal voice in our Community, State and Country.

- Simplicity Just a few sentences in your will or trust are all that is needed.
Versatility You can structure the bequest to leave a specific item or amount of money, make a gift contingent on a certain event, or leave a percentage of your estate to us.
Tax Relief If you are subject to estate tax, your gift allows you to be eligible for an estate tax Charitable deduction for the gift's full value.

## Transportation Resources:

### **Valley Metro Dial a Ride - 602-716-2100**

To use *Valley Metro Dial a Ride* you must be 65 or over or ADA certified. The ride costs \$4.00 each way to the doctor or grocery store. To check on eligibility for this program call 623-222-1500. Valley Metro also provides a program called *Ride Choice*. People who qualify for this program pay only \$3.00 for a one way trip costing up to \$21.00. You must be 65 or over or ADA qualified. To enroll call Valley Metro at 602-716-2100.

### **Benevilla in Surprise - 623-584-4999**

This non-profit agency provides free food shopping services for shut ins. You provide a grocery list over the phone, and they will shop for you free of charge. You only pay for the groceries. They also provide transportation for medical appointments, a friendly visitor service who will visit or call, and a handy person who will do minor repairs like change a light bulb; a wonderful service for people in need. *This service is free of charge if you notify them at least 12 days in advance.*

### **Peoria Dial-A-Ride - 623-773-7435**

\$3.00, ADA \$2.00, needs one day advance notice. **Note:** As of January 1, 2017 Dial a Ride is not available unless you are ADA certified. To get ADA certification you have to be declared disabled for at least six months. This applies to people living in Surprise.

### **Northwest Valley Connections - 623-282-9300**

NVC helps connect seniors and people with disabilities with available public, private and volunteer transportation resources based on their individual needs. Personalized assistance and support is available by contacting our Call - Click - Connect center at (623) 282-9300. Area transportation resources are also listed on our website at [NorthwestValleyConnect.org](http://NorthwestValleyConnect.org).

**West Valley Connections - 623-282-9300** Call for information regarding services available.

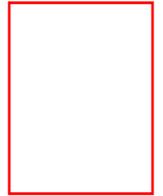


# Unitarian Universalist Church Newsletter

17540 N. Avenue of the Arts, Surprise, AZ 85378-2581

Phone: 623.875.2550

[www.uusurpriseaz.org](http://www.uusurpriseaz.org) Email: [uucsaz2@gmail.com](mailto:uucsaz2@gmail.com)



First Class Mail

## Affirmation

*Love is the spirit of this church  
And service is its law.  
This is our great covenant:  
To dwell together in peace,  
To seek the truth in freedom,  
And to help one another.*

**Join us for Sunday service at 10:30 am**

*If you are not a member but would like to receive church announcements by email,  
please send your email address and full name to [uucsaz2@gmail.com](mailto:uucsaz2@gmail.com).*

## Sermon Titles For November 2019

*The Theme for this month is Vision and Mission*

**11/3 – Rev. Terry Sims ..... Fantastic Schemes**

If dreams are too small, obstacles can seem too big. To keep moving forward, maybe we should increase the size of our vision, to give it fantastic proportion, in order to shrink the relative size of what stands in our way.

**11/10 – Rev. Terry Sims ..... Mission: Impossible?**

Answering that question depends on what the mission is, of course. As is written in both the Quran and the Talmud: “The person who saves one human life, it is as if [that person] has saved the whole of humanity.”

**11/17 – Rev. Terry Sims ..... No One Else**

It is true that each of us has a unique mission in life, because each of us is unique. But there is a difference between a determination to do what we are in a unique position to do and grandiosity, which is believing that only we can do it..

**11/24 – Amy St. Peter..... Know Your Place**

Over the years, some of us have been taught to know our place as a way of keeping us in place. A mindfulness of moments can take us beyond and deeper within our place. What is our place as UUs and how does this help us to build a shared vision and mission?