



Fellow Members of UUC

Greetings - Fall has settled in and we have survived the heat of our summer. Hopefully, this finds you all in good health and ready to enjoy some of sought-after winter weather. I, for one, was ready to be outside a bit more even if we are still practicing social distance.

REFLECTIONS:

AS I sit here writing this message to you, surrounded by the noise and chaos of the elections, I am reminded that we are still a community of people who support and take care of one another. Just this week we have added two new members; our men's and women's groups are still meeting, the BUUK Group is active, and The Board is planning for our next year.

On October 25th, we had a terrific Quarantine Trunk or Treat event organized by our RE Director, Lisa Lawrence. There was good attendance and participation - look for pictures on our Facebook page for the trunk decorations and the strange creatures handing out treats.. It was held in our parking lot and provided a safe environment for our children to enjoy the activities of Halloween. Lisa and her helpers provided us with *Good and Safe* fun. Thank you Lisa!

On November 1, a group of members held a surprise Drive-By at the Church to say good bye and good luck to the Saunders who are leaving us on November 7th for their new home in Ventura, CA. Bonnie and Ken were provided a bench to rest upon - decorated by Marilyn Schulze - while they watched decorated cars and people drive by to wish them well on their journey to the next chapter in their lives. We know we will miss them; and we want to wish them safe travels and a soft arrival in their new home. Thanks go to Co-planner - Marilyn Schultz, and helpers Patricia Balfour and Sharon Beard and of course Rev. Terry for enticing the Saunders to the Church for the event.

Our Church and Community continue to be involved and connected, and our snowbirds are returning slowly. It has been quiet around the Church and so nice to have our Minister, Rev.Terry, back among the fold.

FUTURE PLANS:

I have a couple of things to share on plans for the future. Terry and the Board have been discussing our return to in-person services and watching closely the numbers in our valley and area. Unfortunately, the numbers in the Phoenix area are climbing and we will continue to follow the recommendations of the Medical Field in order to keep us all safe and healthy. We were hoping for a Holiday return; however, it looks more like it will not happen until after the first of the year.

Which brings me to announce the **2021 Annual Meeting on Friday, January 8th**. There will be no dinner this year and this year's meeting will either be all virtual or if possible and safe, there may be some limited in-person attendance, Whichever way it goes, we will conduct our Church's business as usual (or in this case "as unusual"). **Please save the date now** so that you can attend and participate. Details on time and place will be in the December Newsletter and the Meeting packet will be sent out in early December.

The Nominating Committee is looking for volunteers for the Board and the Nominating Committee next year. If you are interested, please contact Steve Calkins. (He is in the Directory)

OUR WEBSITE and Online activity:

I mentioned in my last Update - that we might have some good news regarding the ability to donate on -line and it has happened. We are now able to go to our website, fill out our Pledge form and submit it to the Church Office all with just the click of a button. At the same time, we can choose our method of payment which includes all the normal procedures as well as the addition of PayPal. - our new online donation access. Pay Pal is new to us and allows for donations to be made easily from home or other location and at any time. **Check out the Website, click on the Donate button and learn about Stewardship and Giving.**



And while you are on the Website, take the time to acquaint yourself with the information available to you. We have begun building onto our website. We are looking to make forms available on line that you would normally have to pick up and return to the Office, and to use the on-line calendar to record events that are scheduled so that you will have current information by checking the Website. Terry has written a new Welcome message and we are doing work on other sections of the Website to make information more accessible and user friendly. .

In this growing digital age, we need to begin checking the Website of our Church to find information, meeting times, events scheduled and people to contact for information. We post the Board agenda on the Web the week before each meeting, (and you are welcome to join in -

we just need to know you are interested so we can send you the link).; the minutes are added as approved and there is a President's report and a Minister's report each month.

You can find a listing of the committees and as we progress there will be information about each of these for you to review. The Newsletter is on the Web - not just the current one- but older issues as well. And these Updates I send out have been added. Since we are not meeting in person - the Web and Facebook can be a great way to stay in touch.

I often have people say we don't communicate enough, and I agree. I am working with Kathryn to enhance our announcements. She has great information, and we want a way to encourage you - to check it out. If we want to know what is happening in other areas and businesses, we often go to their Website for information. We need to become accustomed to doing the same in our own community. And we need to have feedback on what is posted and volunteers to help us improve.

. We are working hard to make this all happen. If you are interested in being involved or have a talent for Web Design and Management - let me know

BOARD AND COMMITTEE WORK:

The Board is in the final stages of reviewing and revising our By Laws. We hope to have Board approval by the November meeting and then will send them out for your approval. This has been a major task headed by Trustee Bill Chartrand and supported by Brooke Gaunt, Reggie Johnston and myself. It has been a time-consuming task, enjoyable to do and we hope beneficial to our community in the end. We will leave the final determination to you. Look to receive them sometime late November or early December with a final vote taken at the Annual Meeting.

The Board is also working on a change in our phone and internet system to enhance our online experiences and make it easier to do the business of the church. We are meeting with a representative from Cox this week; I will keep you updated on the results of that meeting.

We have added a new Chair for the Adult RE program. With Bonnie Saunders's leaving, we had a vacancy and Juliet Gustavson has agreed to fill that opening. We are pleased to have her and look forward to her leadership in this program.

It is the end of the day and the polls will be closing in some States soon. I hope by the time you read this - we will have some idea of where we are headed and how hard or easy it will be to get there. I am holding tight to positive energy this evening hoping that tomorrow may bring peace to my soul. (perhaps yours also)

Yours in Faith, Friendship and hopefully a brighter tomorrow

Sherry