

# Our Newsletter

Services Every Sunday of the Year | Volume 63, Number 11

## November Light

### Our 63rd Year

#### Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Las Cruces

## We All Need QTWTF



We've reached that part of the year when many of us seek maximum QTWTF. That would be "quality time with the family." Even before the holiday season kicks off, we're thinking about how to spend time together, shop for the family, or the good 'ol days with them.

It's the right thing to do, if you can make it happen. If you can't be with your nuclear family, I hope you'll consider spending more time with your church family. Many of us are not going home for the holidays, so it's a perfect time to get together with friends from the church and enjoy one another's company.

This will be my first holiday season in New Mexico. So, I'm wondering what is special about NM Thanksgiving, Christmas, and the New Year. Anything? I'm dying to find out.

I do know, however, that there is powerful ministry yet to be done in Las Cruces. The defacing of our campus and at two other houses of worship by vandals lets us all know that we must continue to stand up for love, compassion and justice. If we stand strong together as a faith community, nothing can bring us asunder.

I'd like to take a moment to thank all of you for making the beginning of the ministry here so welcoming and warm. Tamara and I have settled in nicely. Many people from the church have come by the house to see us, many have invited us into their homes, and several have taken us out to do fun things. We are very grateful for your love and kindness.

I wish everyone a wonderful kickoff to the holiday season. May you enjoy maximum QTWTF. And, above all, convey love in all you do!

Blessings, Rev. Xolani

## Board of Trustee Actions

The purpose of this column is to keep you informed about recent Board of Trustee actions. Complete minutes of all Board meetings may be viewed in the office; please contact the Congregational Administrator.

October 17, 2018, Board Meeting

- The BOT authorized the hiring of a home inspector to evaluate the church rental property at 2002 S. Solano. Funds for this endeavor will come from the Rental Fund Moneys. Motion carried. Lyn Pearson will facilitate finding a home inspector to do the job.
- The BOT authorized the Finance Committee to arrange for an internal audit of church finances before the end of the year.

## Upcoming Services

November 4, 2018, services at 9:00 and 10:30 AM

### This Is No Time For a Casual Faith

[Elisa Sanchez and Jane Asche](#)

Unitarian Universalists have a history of standing on the side of justice. What are we doing now when our principles are under attack? Rev. Xolani is away fulfilling his military service.

November 11, 2018, services at 9:00 and 10:30 AM

### Gratitude and Spirituality

[Maggie Locatelli and SA Katya Gonzalez](#)

What does gratitude mean in the context of spirituality. We will also recognize and show gratitude for our veterans. Rev. Xolani is on study leave.

November 18, 2018, services at 9 & 10:30 AM

### Thanksgiving Service

[Rev. Xolani Kacela with Susan Freudenthal and SA Jerry Nachison](#)

We'll explore the meaning of Thanksgiving through the lenses of gratitude, generosity, and covenant. The sermon will arise from the history of Massasoit Sachem or Ousamequin (c. 1581 – 1661), who was the sachem or leader of the Wampanoag tribe. Preaching duties will be shared [... read more.](#)

November 25, 2018, services at 9:00 and 10:30 AM

### Gratitude in Poetry

[Rev. Xolani Kacela and SA James Caufield](#)

Mary Oliver's poetry is familiar and inspiring for many, especially UUs. Let's take a look at Wild Geese as window for understanding why and how she helps us navigate the human condition.

## Upcoming Roundtables

Education never ends. Come join our discussions. Our goal is to learn more about all sides of issues and more about each other. If you have a comment or suggestion, email it to [roundtable@uuchurchlc.org](mailto:roundtable@uuchurchlc.org).

Sun, Nov 4, 2018, 10:30 AM in the Library

Roundtable: Recent Reports on Climate Change

Presenter: Don Neidig

Don, who is a scientist, will talk about the implications of recent reports on Climate Change, including the United Nations report, which says that since its last report in 2014, significant advances have been made linking human influences to extreme weather events.

Sun, Nov 11, 2018, 10:30 AM in the Library

Roundtable: Myths About the Effectiveness of Capitalism

Presenter: Paul O'Connell, Economist

Does greed make markets work; must Corporations maximize value to shareholders & CEO's; is there equal opportunity for all to climb the economic ladder; and will making the economy fairer result in a less prosperous economy?

Sun, Nov 18, 2018, 10:30 AM in the Library

Roundtable: How Community of Hope is Addressing Homelessness

Presenter: Nicole Martinez, Executive Director, Community of Hope/Adobe Inc.

How the Community of Hope is addressing homelessness in Dona Ana County, which is a very important topic in these times of extreme inequality.

Sun, Nov 25, 2018, 10:30 AM in the Library

Roundtable: Geopolitics, Human Rights, and Solidarity in Mexico

Presenter: Neil Harvey, Professor and Government Department Head, NMSU

Geopolitics, human rights and solidarity: How will the new government in Mexico respond to the Central American migrant crisis? Neil will discuss the roots of the current migrant crisis in Central America, including the historical responsibility of U.S. interventions and neo-liberal policies in the region.

## **Social Justice**

### **Let Justice Roll Down Like Waters (Amos 5.24)**

### **Change 4 Change**

Holy Cross Retreat Center was the recipient of Change 4 Change in 3rd Quarter. They received \$781.23 for their Refugee Hosting initiative.

Tents to Rents received \$1,485 from the congregation this year for their 2018 initiative. They raised a total of \$50,000.00 and will be able to move 6 homeless individuals into apartments.

Thank you to all for being so generous.

## **Benefit Concert**

### **Silver City – Auld Lang Syne**

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Silver City, NM, invites you to a special concert event benefiting the Fellowship's Social Justice Committee on Sunday, November 4, at 12:00 noon. The musicians are "[Auld Lang Syne](#)", an Indie/Folk duo who write heartfelt and passionate songs celebrating nature and also address the complexities created when human nature intersects with Mother Nature. Snacks will be served and your donations will be greatly appreciated.

## **Worth Noting**

## **Welcome to Our New Members**

On Sunday, October 28, we welcomed 18 new members into our church community. Please look for their pictures in the church lobby.

## Minister's Musings

If you restrict yourself just to reading the nUUs every week or the Light once a month, you're missing out on other things our website offers. The Home Page is loaded with interesting things. Of course there are the weekly sermon blurbs at the top of the page and the events calendar further down, but there is a new section called Minister's Musings. This is the place to find articles that Rev. Xolani thinks you might find interesting. This month he's added a short 1-page article on the journey of your money at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Las Cruces.

## Your Own UU Pitch

Because Unitarian Universalists do not follow a creed, it's sometimes difficult to explain what our faith/church is about. Rev. Xolani has put together a sample explanation to help you briefly explain Unitarian Universalism, makes our faith attractive, what the church and its members do in the community, and why you think you should join our church. He calls it the anti-elevator speech because the "UUCLC Pitch" is a way to tell our story. It is not an elevator speech, where people talk about the Principles or lay down a 20-second spiel then think they've done their job. The pitch is available for you to download in either Word or open document format on an [introductory page](#), which is found in the MEMBERS tab of this website. Download it and make it your own.

## Say Hello

One of the most pleasant things to do is greet people at church on Sunday. Our greeter coordinators, Joan Dormody and Peggy Devlin, need more greeters for Sunday services, memorial services, and special services throughout the year. Greeting is a wonderful way to get to know other church members and help newcomers find their way. It's also a great way for the entire congregation to get to know you too. It's not a difficult job, in fact it's pretty intuitive. Take a look at the guidelines for the [first](#) and [second](#) services and please consider serving as a greeter. You can greet when called on or regularly every month and Joan and Peggy will make sure you serve along side an experienced greeter.

## Deepen and Broaden Your Leadership!



The UUA Pacific Western Region is launching a leadership development program for leaders of congregations (board members, committee members, rising leaders, religious professionals, and more.) Participants in this hybrid of an in-person/online experience will gain a deeper grounding in Unitarian Universalism and will also gain knowledge and skills regarding mission-focused leadership, systems thinking, change management, anti-oppression and multicultural transformation, conflict transformation, and more. Because our region is large, the in-person retreats will launch in January in three locations: Albuquerque, NM, California's Bay Area, and Portland, OR. Sessions will continue online twice per month from February through May.

The cost is \$350-\$500, depending on the location of the weekend retreat. Travel equalization funds are available, as are our scholarships from our Mountain Desert District. Find all the information you need at <http://uua.org/node/221483>.

## Don't Forget

## Thursdays – Facing Life with Death

Eight consecutive sessions, beginning Thursday, October 4, at 11:00 AM-12:30 PM with the last session on November 22; Religious Education Building. This program facilitates a process of personal reflection, learning, and spiritual growth focused on the topic of death and dying. Facilitated by Susan Freudenthal, Director of Religious Education.

## Nov 9 Lighting the Way



This workshop will be held in the Religious Education Building Great Room from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm on Friday, November 9.

Registration: [laurel.weathersbee@gmail.com](mailto:laurel.weathersbee@gmail.com) or 575-288-5125.

Cost: \$55 (to cover all materials – includes pre-cut support, hand colored papers, glue, pre-cut mat, instructional handouts).

Artist/Teacher: Award winning artist, Laurel Weathersbee of Las Cruces, New Mexico, who has 15+ years experience teaching water-media, fiber arts and collage.

No art training or background required. Participants will use a variety of hand-colored collage papers—to create a beautiful work of glowing farolitos (luminarias). Finished work will be suitable for framing or to use as an image for your own greeting cards. All materials are provided: you won't need anything but your own resource materials or ideas. Materials include a pre-cut 11 X 14 mat – if you want to hang your collage, you'll be able to place it in a standard 11 X 14 frame.

We will spend the first part of the morning talking about color, value, texture and balance. Then, using the prepared materials, create unique and beautiful works focused on the New Mexican traditional farolitos that line our walkways and rooftops during the Christmas season. Plenty of parking. Bring a sack lunch. Refrigerator available. Bottled water and all art materials will be provided. Here is a [class handout](#) explaining the history of farolitos and the materials that will be provided for the workshop.

## Nov 16 Candle-making Class

Friday, Nov 16, in the RE Great Room. Two sessions: 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm for adults, cost is \$ 5.00 for materials. 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm for kids, cost is free (paid for through Religious Education). Each session is limited to 10 people, so sign up early!

Make several dipped tapers, either rainbow striped or your choice, also twisted or braided candles. Makes wonderful gifts for family and friends! Contact Sara Thomas, 575-520-2674.

## Nov 16 Dining Out

November Dining Out will be at 5:00 pm on Friday, November 16, at TBD. Please sign up by Wednesday, November 14, in the church lobby. You may also contact [DiningOut@uuchurchlc.org](mailto:DiningOut@uuchurchlc.org) if you have questions.

## Nov 18 Caring Committee Commissioning

Sunday, November 18, 10:30 AM service. The Caring Committee will be commissioned. Commissioning is a ritual that formally acknowledges the Caring Committee as the congregation's care team. We encourage all committee members to come and participate in the ritual.

## Nov 18 Jamie Anderson Concert



Jamie  
Anderson

Sunday, November 18 at 7:00pm, Mark Sukonarak will open Jamie Anderson's concert. Tickets for the concert are \$20 (more if you can, less if you can't). No one will be turned away.

Singer-songwriter-parking lot attendant Jamie Anderson has played her unique original songs in hundreds of venues in four countries, including several concerts in Las Cruces. She's folk without the Birkenstocks, country without the big hair, pop without the meat dress, and jazz without the weird chords. Jamie's music has been featured on Good Morning America, the Dr. Demento radio show, NPR's Car Talk, and stations all over the world. She loves being a musician, so she doesn't really park cars, but her mama said she should have something to fall back on. Jamie will have CDs and books available for purchase. They make great gifts! For more information, send email to [concert@uuchurchlc.org](mailto:concert@uuchurchlc.org).

## Nov 18 Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner

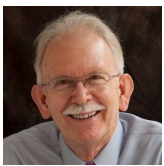
Sunday, November 18, after the 10:30 AM church service. The Hospitality Committee, with help from so many of you, will be sponsoring a Thanksgiving dinner. Turkeys and a vegetarian entrée will be provided. If you plan on attending the dinner, please bring a complementary dish to share. Watch for the signup sheets for this meal because we need to know what you can bring and how you can help us. Thanksgiving dinner on this particular Sunday has been a tradition of this church since it was much smaller and the dinner was held along the Rio Grande. The Hospitality Committee looks forward to your attendance at this dinner.

## Nov 22 Thanksgiving Dinner

Another wonderful opportunity to share Thanksgiving dinner with your church community. This Thanksgiving dinner, on Thursday, Nov 22, is sponsored by Jan Thompson. Look for more details closer to Thanksgiving.

## Board of Trustees

# President Charlie Scholz



## Now Let Us Sing

On the last Sunday in October, Catherine asked the congregation to sing hymn 1074 Turn the World Around. If you weren't in church or don't remember the hymn, it's six pages long with a number of repeats that require you to go back and forth through the music. It's a daunting piece of music to sing and I can't help but wonder how many choirs, let alone entire congregations, attempt it. But we did because we have faith that when Catherine thinks we can do it – well, we can do it. The congregation, following their leader, sang through all of the back and forths and repeats and had fun doing it.

Catherine, the choir, and the music we sing together, are just a few of the reasons I love the church. We have spirit. We've weathered a number of difficult changes over the past years and come out in good shape. Our future is bright and we're a growing presence in the community, which is as it should be because Unitarian Universalism has much to offer – and we sing!

Love and joy,  
Lyn Pearson, Congregational Vice President (standing in for Charlie)

## Choir and Music

# Music Notes



## MUSIC NOTES

How do we make constructive use of our anger? Recently, we felt a range of emotions in response to the racist and violent vandalism on our campus, at the very time that we focused on starting up our new ministry with Rev. Xolani. Part of the ministry start-up workshop, led by Unitarian Universalist Association consultants Dr. Janice Marie Johnson and Dr. Amy Rowland, had to be set aside to share and process some of those emotions. Many of us felt some degree of anger at this hateful act.

On October 6th, while the US Senate was voting to confirm Kavanaugh as Justice of the Supreme Court, Unitarian Universalist composer Jason Shelton went jogging. Over the course of two hours he had written and shared a new hymn “that speaks to the brokenness in our social and political systems.” I downloaded it and had it ready, never thinking that two weeks later we would need it for something like vandalism. “A Cleansing Rage” shows us how to use our anger for love. “A cleansing rage wipes away my fear,...uproots all hesitation,...burns deep in my soul: may this rage make us one, make us whole... A loving rage restores our hope,..strengthens bonds of resilience,..burns deep in my soul: may this love make us one, make us whole.”

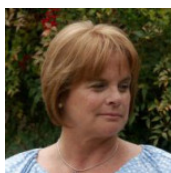
I remembered the outpouring of support by the entire multi-faith community after three churches in Las Cruces were targeted with bombs by an unknown assailant about three years ago. We came together in Pioneer Women’s Park, spoke, sang and prayed together. While we would never wish this to happen again, it brought us together as a caring community. Likewise, when our church leaders and staff met for our scheduled ministry start-up, we expressed a sense of solidarity in standing by our minister and standing up for our beliefs. And we have begun to receive outpourings of support on social media.

I was thankful to call upon Jason’s new hymn as a resource as we gathered in worship the Sunday of Start-up weekend. It helped to take that anger and make use of it for the good we have envisioned for our church community.

Catherine Massey, *Director of Music*  
[UUMN](#) Credentialed Music Leader

## Religious Education

### R.E. Matters



## Happy Thanksgiving!

Did you know that the idea of Thanksgiving began as a Jewish holiday? They call it Sukkot. Families spend intentional time together at each meal for a week in a separate shelter, apart from the home. The original intent of the week long holiday was to honor the family and the harvest. Of course, this tradition of celebrating harvest, widening the circle of the faithful is honored in many places today. It may seem quaint to celebrate a harvest when most of us no longer farm or grow our own food but still, the Thanksgiving holiday remains.

People still need places to live and worship in freedom. People still bring new traditions and foods to the celebration. Thanksgiving and Pilgrims are more than remembering old traditions, it is also a time for living new ones. As this year’s politics draw us closer into the complicated issues surrounding immigration, may we remember how truly blessed most of us already are and I am grateful beyond belief to my ancestors whose courage and perseverance allows me to live in comfort each and every day.

Because of their choices, I do not have to march across my country with thousands of others seeking the basic rights all people deserve. I don't worry where my next meal is coming from or where I will sleep most nights. My children have enough to eat, to wear, to play with, to learn than most children do worldwide. In the Jewish tradition, we say dayenu, it would have been enough (had the sun shone, had we enough to eat, had the water been clean to drink). Dayenu is a reminder to never forget all the miracles in our lives.

This Thanksgiving, consider how to bring this alive with your family, chosen or birth. How has the miracle of dayenu allowed you to be thankful?

We will be sharing in a Thanksgiving Worship later this month. Come and celebrate in joy as we do.

And if you will be sharing your holiday with a child, consider having a serious conversation about immigration. The Unitarian Universalist Association is an excellent source for resources. <https://www.uua.org/children/ga/talking-about-immigration>

See you on Sunday!

Susan

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## Adult Education Program

Facing Life with Death (eight consecutive sessions)

Thursday, October 4th 11:00 AM-12:30 PM; Religious Education Building

This program facilitates a process of personal reflection, learning, and spiritual growth focused on the topic of death and dying.

Facilitated by Susan Freudenthal, Director of Religious Education

Adult Exploration depends on you! What interests you? Are you willing to lead or co-lead a book study? A conversation? A class? Fill out a request/proposal and I'll help you make it happen.

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ldBkScTcz8T6wl\\_t68EbJ8O-FdxD9RI1rDXx991mMko/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ldBkScTcz8T6wl_t68EbJ8O-FdxD9RI1rDXx991mMko/edit?usp=sharing)

## Thanks to Our Greeters and Hospitality Hosts



### Greeters

Our October greeters were: Jane Asche, Nora Brown, Jan Thompson, Diane Taylor, Skip Shelton, Linda Peterson, Judy Licht, Jack Welch, Gayle Trantham, Jo Ingle, Lyn Pearson, Vickie Freeland, Peggy and Joel Brown, Tom Packard, Chris Ramsey, Diane Lee, June Miller, Carol Winkler, Lurene John, and Jean Gilbert. — *Peggy Devlin & Joan Dormody, Greeter Coordinators*

### Hospitality

Mari Crowley and John Roesch, who are new members in the congregation, sponsored the October coffee hours. They were ably assisted by Cass and Cait Calway.

## Generous Giving

It is very easy to make a gift to the church through [InFellowship](#). Donations in memory of members and friends become part of our Endowment Fund. These are gifts that keep on giving.

## The Tombaugh Gallery



## The Language of Tapestry



The November exhibit at the Tombaugh Gallery, “The Language of Tapestry,” features the Tapestry Artists of Las Arañas, which includes weavers from Northern and Southern New Mexico. The tapestries in the exhibit tell stories through careful choices of color, technique, and pattern. This exhibit

demonstrates how the ancient art of tapestry weaving is still alive, vibrant, and relevant in today’s world.

The exhibit runs from November 4 through the 28. The opening reception and gallery talk is Sunday, November 4th at 11:30 am at the Tombaugh Gallery. The Gallery will also offer a presentation about tapestry weaving on Sunday, November 18th at 11:30 by two members of the tapestry group, Elizabeth Buckley and Nancy Wohlenberg.

The artists included in the exhibit are; Ann Blankenship, Lynn Breckenridge, Elizabeth Buckley, Evelyn Campbell, Mary Rawcliffe Colton, Mary Cost, Cindy Dworzak, Linda Giesen, Dan Klinglesmith, Judy McCarthy and Nancy Wohlenberg. The Tapestry artists are affiliated with the Las Arañas Spinners and Weavers guild in Albuquerque

For details, contact [Gallery@uuchurchlc.org](mailto:Gallery@uuchurchlc.org), or call the church at 522-7281. The Tombaugh Gallery is located inside the Unitarian Universalist Church, 2000 South Solano Drive, Las Cruces, NM and is open Wednesday – Saturday 10 am – 2 pm. Visit the gallery on [Facebook](#).

## Regular Monthly Activities

Unless otherwise stated, all events will be held at the church. Please check the church’s [online calendar](#) to ensure the most recent times and places for these events. Newcomers are invited to participate in these activities.

**Bridge Group** plays bridge on the first, third and fifth Thursdays at 1:00 pm in the church lobby. If you want to play, be sure to contact Nancy Anderson [bridge@uuchurchlc.org](mailto:bridge@uuchurchlc.org) a few days before so we know the number of players.

**Desert Spirit CUUPS** is a Las Cruces chapter of the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans. We practice and educate others on Earth-centered spirituality. We gather monthly on the 3rd Saturday of each month at 6 pm for a potluck and either ritual or an informative class. All events are open to everyone interested in learning and/or growing in their spiritual path. Events held at the church unless otherwise noted. Visit <http://www.facebook.com/desertspiritcuups> or email [lascrucescuups@gmail.com](mailto:lascrucescuups@gmail.com).

**Dining Out:** A different restaurant every month and dinner with church members. Signup sheets are in the church lobby on the welcome counter. You should sign up not later than the Wednesday prior to the dinner. Look in the church newsletter “The Light” for the exact time, date and location or contact [DiningOut@uuchurchlc.org](mailto:DiningOut@uuchurchlc.org) for more information or to reserve a place for the dinner.

**Lunch Bunch** is a weekly lunch-time get together. Everyone is invited to bring a lunch to the church library every Wednesday at 12:00 noon and enjoy the company of fellow Unitarian Universalists.

**MoonSisters Group:** This women’s group meets once monthly. Contact Cass Calway for more information or visit the group’s Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/342484072516356/>

**Quilting Bee:** The UU Bee Welcome, meets every week in the church lobby. The Bee is open to all levels of quilters, *both members and non-members*. It welcomes all styles of quilting work from machine-quilting to hand-quilting to appliqué. The

purpose of a quilting bee is to provide an opportunity for quilters to spend time together as they work on their individual quilting projects and exchange tips of the trade, encourage and support each other, share new ideas, deepen friendships, and generally have a good time. A \$1 donation per quilter will be given at each session to cover the cost of utilities. The contact person is Chris Ramsey.

**Unitarian Universalist Children's Playgroups** (all are welcome): Parents/caregivers must remain on site with their children. The members of the group plan outings, holiday celebrations and other activities together. Contact Susan Freudenthal, DRE, for more information.

**Monthly Calendar**: To get the information you need about the many and varied activities of our church, go to <http://www.uuchurchlc.org/> and scroll down the page to the calendar and events listings.