

Unitarian Universalist Church of Las Cruces

 uuchurchlc.org/news/newsletter/

Directions from your current location

2000 South Solano Drive, Las Cruces, NM 88001

Office hours: Office Administrator, Cheri Coffelt is working from home; her hours are M-F 9:30-4:30, (575) 522-7281.

Newsletter

August Light

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Las Cruces, Vol. 71, Num. 8

Services Every Sunday of the Year

We are a transformational Force for Love and Justice in Our Community

We gather to inspire spiritual growth, care for each other and our community, seek truth, and work for justice.

Church Office Open: Monday thru Friday 10:00 – 1:00

Join us for Zoom Worship Sunday at 10 AM, See past worship services on our YouTube channel

Deadline for Light submissions is the 25th of every month.

Our Incoming Minister

The Reverend Rod Thompson



Rod's Ruminations for August

In just a couple of days I will be on the road to Las Cruces. I can hardly wait to be with you all and lead the Sunday Services on the 20th and the 27th. See you in church!

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Our President

Susan Hychka



Easily the most exciting news this month is that our new half-time minister, Rev. Rod Thompson, is beginning his time with us! Travels from Ohio and getting settled in Las Cruces will occupy his first couple weeks, but he is planning to lead our Sunday Services on August 20 and 27. We plan to welcome him with a potluck lunch after church service on August 20. Please save the date and help us celebrate this new beginning.

Your Board of Trustees has been discussing a book called, *Part-Time is Plenty: Thriving without Full-Time Ministry*, authored by part-time minister and journalist G. Jeffrey MacDonald. This book was introduced to one of our Trustees through an on-line Unitarian Universalist Association workshop. It is a well-researched description of the many ways churches of all denominations are experiencing more vitality, not less, with part-time clergy. Greater lay engagement, more energy, and staff development mark a few of the benefits.

The author found that congregations who ask their part-time clergy to focus just on internal matters – delivering sermons, providing pastoral care, and working with committees – are not likely to thrive and grow. Churches who thrive seek the minister's help in identifying the needs of families and children in their community and finding new ways to continue to fulfill their mission. These churches generate excitement about the innovative ways they "do church differently." I recommend this book to you.

Because Rev. Rod will serve our church in a part-time capacity, opportunities for laypeople to lead services will continue. There will also be more opportunities to take initiative, organize events, spearhead programs, develop community partnerships, and try new approaches to serving our community and meeting the spiritual needs of our members and others.

I hope you will join us in our efforts to be a church that thrives and draws people in.

Board of Trustees

Board Officers

President: Susan Hychka

Vice President: Bill Fitzgerald

Secretary: Jeanne Gilbert

Treasurer: Jan Thompson

At Large

Rabbitt Loring

Jennifer Trantham

John Seeley

Skip Shelton

Carol Stanfill

Full board minutes are sent to church members in a private emailing.

Religious Education



Kellie Ingram, Director of Religious Education

Sometimes in our lives we must simply pause, celebrate, and feel grateful, especially in times of difficulty. -B. Burchard

I love a good reason to celebrate. I'm a jovial kind of person like that! And this August I have so much to not only celebrate, but to also be thankful for. Summer saw a great attendance for Maker Days. Youths learned a little something about history, community, and fellowship. We ended the program with a water celebration and pizza bake. I've discovered in my career that soaking wet kids are usually the happiest kids! Personally, my family and I celebrated Christmas in July for the first time. Until recently I had never heard of July 25th being recognized as its own little holiday.

My hubby, children, mom, and I munched on ham & turkey sandwiches served on brown & serve rolls, with a side of cranberry sauce. We exchanged lottery scratch tickets, played games, and listened to carols. Religious Education also has reason to celebrate when it comes to our request for volunteers! A great, big Thank You to everyone who has reached out in one way or another. While we will certainly miss our teachers while they are gone, we hope that the support and commitment of our congregation will be a warm welcome back when they return. Lastly, the RE committee and I are thrilled to celebrate the progress of OWL. After lots of planning and patience, classes are on track to begin this Fall. What did you celebrate this summer?



Music and Choir

Catherine Massey, Director of Music



MUSIC NOTES

Another brand new church year begins soon, with our official ingathering service on August 27th with our new/known part-time minister, Rev. Rod Thompson. That means the new choir season is beginning—more about that in a moment.

I recently returned from the annual conference of Association of Unitarian Universalist Music Ministries, where we had every opportunity to regroup, reconnect, and refocus. One of my great joys is that UUA's new president, Rev. Sofia Betancourt, is a long-time AUUMM member, and I'm thrilled and grateful we have her to lead our association. During worship, we were able to give her our blessings and wishes for her latest journey, and hear her wisdom in these times. Our community of religious professional musicians was consulted and relied upon to help envision UUA's next hymnal! We aren't losing our old ones, but the next one will be an extensive on-line resource. We spent a good day working on that together—in preliminary stages now.

An aspect of the conference we will use here is the sharing of songs in community singing sessions. Matt Meyer and others lead these, and I've got a big group of songs for the choir and congregation in my back pocket again. And I always pick up multiple new songs or ways of singing the familiar from all the worship services we engage in, and from Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout's workshop on songs. A former AUUMM board member I worked with, Dr. Marjorie Herman, gave an excellent conducting workshop. And one of our keynote speakers, Amelia Nagoski, gave talks and demonstrations around her co-authored book *Burnout*.

If I hadn't just retired from teaching, I would have missed the first week of teacher work days because of being with AUUMM. Then I would have missed the first days of classes because I promptly got sick when I got home. In my fevered dreams I've been starting my classes up, using new activities and ideas, over and over, and I've realized clearly that's something I miss deep down. Luckily, I still have a church year to start. We will follow tradition and begin choir season with a "retreat"—a potluck and community gathering to reconnect and look ahead. Then we begin rehearsals. If you'd like to check out the choir community, or if you believe you'd like to join us, come to these events.

CHOIR RETREAT POTLUCK AND INGATHERING REHEARSAL

Our annual choir retreat potluck event will be on **Tuesday, August 8 from 6:30-8:00 PM** in the church lobby. We share a meal and community-building activities, catch up on what's been happening, and look ahead to our new season. This is a great time to jump in if you have been thinking of joining this friendly small-group ministry. Bring a dish to share, or just come and have a fun evening.

The first rehearsal of the year will be on the following **Tuesday, August 15** at our usual rehearsal time—6:45-8:30—in the sanctuary. The only requirements for being in the choir is a willingness to sing in rehearsal and during worship, and to agree to our choir's covenant. Questions? Contact Catherine Massey, Director of Music.

Administration

Cheri Coffelt, Church Administrator



August Schedule!

The Church Office is now open most weekdays from 10:00 – 1:00. Please call the office if you need a special appointment other than those times. (575) 522-7281.

Committees and Programs

CUUPS

“Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.”

The Sixth Source of Affirmation of the Unitarian Universalist Association

August 1 is the traditional day to celebrate Lughnasadh. This is the first of the harvest festivals on the wheel of the year and Lughnasadh is known as the first harvest, as this is when many crops will be harvested and stored for the coming winter. It is a time to be mindful of the blessings you have in your life and our sustenance from the earth.

The CUUPS group will celebrate on August 19 in the Religious Education Building great room. We will gather for potluck at 6 p.m. everyone is welcome and stay for ritual if you would like.



Yule: Celebrates the winter solstice.

Imbolc: An ancient festival welcoming the first wave of spring.

Ostara: Celebrates the spring equinox

Beltane: Celebrates May Day

Litha: Celebrates the summer solstice

Lughnasadh (Loo-nas-ah): Celebrates the beginning of the harvest season

Mabon: Celebrates the autumnal equinox

Samhain: Marks the end of summer, and the end of the harvest season. It signals the beginning of winter. On this day, pagans believe the veil between the living and the dead is especially thin.

The Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans (CUUPS) is an organization dedicated to networking Pagan-identified Unitarian Universalists (UUs), educating people about Paganism, promoting interfaith dialogue, developing Pagan liturgies and theologies, and supporting Pagan-identified Unitarian Universalist religious professionals.

CUUPS was chartered by the Unitarian Universalist Association at the General Assembly in 1987 for purposes of enabling:

- networking among Pagan Identified UUs; providing outreach of Unitarian Universalism to the broader Pagan community continentally.
- providing educational materials on Paganism for Unitarian Universalist congregations and the general public.

- promoting Pagan – Jewish and Christian dialogue; encouraging the development of theological and liturgical materials based on earth and nature centered religious and spiritual perspectives.
- encouraging greater use of music, dance, visual arts, poetry, story, and creative ritual in Unitarian Universalist worship and celebration.
- providing support for Pagan-identified Unitarian Universalist religious professionals and ministerial students; and fostering healing relationships with our mother the Earth and all her children.

Facilities by Charlie Scholz –

Good News From Facilities

In addition to our usual maintenance schedule, we've been busy repairing vandalism damage which included putting a new covering on the shed behind the Minster's office and cleaning several lighting fixtures and cameras that had been spray painted.

We're also met to work on prioritizing repairs to our buildings and potential replacements of systems in anticipation of applying for a Department of Energy grant to help us be more energy efficient.

Finance by Katie Fitzgerald

Budget Building Begins

How is that for alliteration? But the header is right we begin the process of developing the budget for 2024 with the upcoming Community Roundup and subsequent meetings of the Finance Committee. Please don't be shy about sharing your thoughts about priorities for spending or ways to increase our financial resources.

Hospitality

Thanks to the various covenant groups and committees that take turns supplying the goodies, setting up and cleaning up for fellowship after our Sunday services. You may have noticed the plexiglass box on the serving table inviting your free will donation. Your donation helps cover the cost of tea, coffee, creamers, cups, etc. that the Hospitality Committee ensures is on hand each Sunday so we can concentrate on the goodies and each other! Thanks for your generous support. Ed Gomolka and Bill Fitzgerald

Hospitality Rotation Schedule

This schedule is now permanently located on the Members page of our website under Sunday Hospitality Rotation. A new addition to the hospitality rotation is the Caring Committee, which will be handling 5th Sundays throughout the year.

Library by Rabbit Loring

New Common Read Announced!

The selection of our new 2023-24 Unitarian Universalist Association Common Read was announced at General Assembly in Pittsburgh, PA, last month. The book *Repentance and Repair: Making Amends in an Unapologetic World* by Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg, “invites readers of any faith to explore practices for accountability that can bring us into wholeness and really make a difference in our personal, community, and national relationships.” Learn about the five steps toward restoration of our relationships and a way forward. This book is “for anyone who cares about creating a country and culture that is more whole than the one in which we live, and for anyone who has been hurt or who is struggling to take responsibility for their mistakes.” The book is on order from Beacon Press and will soon be in the Staff Picks section near the mailboxes.

The two books currently highlighted in the Staff Picks are by Rev Gary Kowalski, *The Souls of Animals* and *Blessings of the Animals: Celebrating our Kinship with all Creation*. They were donated anonymously last month. Check them out!

Library hours are Tuesday and Thursday from 1:00 – 3:00pm and Sunday from 11:00 – 11:30am. And don’t forget the book carts, one in the library and one in the foyer. Take home a favorite and leave a donation in the box on the cart. Your support helps the library acquire new books with no drain on the church budget.

Membership by Lyn Pearson –

Like other church groups, we are looking forward to InGathering this year when Rev. Rod Thompson will be onboard. We will also be recognizing our newest members in that service. Be sure to attend, meet all of our newest members and have a piece of their welcome cake in the Great Room. It will be a very special service.

Is there something about the church you’d like to know and that you think would deserve a brochure of it’s own? If so, let Membership know.

Thanks to Our June Greeters

In July, our greeters were: Peggy Devlin, Tom Packard, Julie Woody, Carol Stanfill, Jane Asche, Steve Hychka, Mark Sukontarak, Lisa Peterson, Judy Licht, Jack Welch and Gayle Trantham. We can always use more greeters and it's one of the best ways to become more familiar with our members who love to see a smiling face on Sundays. If you're interested in becoming a greeter, contact Mark Sukontarak at .

Social Justice –

Barking News from the Animal Advocates Ministry for July 2023

1. Thanks largely to the commitment and generosity of the members of UUCLC our “Cans for Critters” project crossed the \$18,000 mark in aluminum can reclamation initiative over the life-time of the project. The monies raised through re-cycling has helped over 350 companion animals (and the people who love them). Thank you UUCLC! And a big thank you to Jean Gilbert who administers this program!
2. Dave Steele was invited to participate in a community meeting hosted by a local advocacy group—Animal Advocates for Change—to discuss the status of an effort to convince the Las Cruces City Council to adopt evidence based, best practices modeled changes to the city's animal ordinances that have been presented to the Council. Dave will be attending the City Council Meeting on August 7th to voice support for the AAfc proposal.
3. Janet Martinique and Dave Steele attended a NM Game and Fish public input meeting to voice opposition to a proposal to lengthen the hunting season and increase the kill level for bears and cougars in NM. These proposals are based on incomplete data on the bear and cougar populations and distribution.
4. Animal Protection New Mexico's August for Animals Fund annual fund raiser begins on August 1 and ends on August 19. Please go to APNM's website for information and secured giving link (APNM.org). Questions? Contact Dave Steele.

Change for Change

Second quarter 2023 the church donated \$983.42 to the Border Servant Corps. The Children's Reading Alliance will receive our donations to Change for Change during the third quarter of 2023 (July/August/September).

Climate Action Group by James Caufield

The Climate Action Group met again after a summer hiatus, and we were joined by President Susan Hychka and Steve Hychka. Steve and Katie Fitzgerald have been working on a large Department of Energy grant for nonprofits. This is of course very big news!

CAG spent much of the first part of this year getting up to speed on legislation and possibilities for reaching out to our legislators. Cathy Cox, Jane Asche and James Caufield have been attending Green Sanctuary events hosted by the Unitarian Universalist Association, including orientations and information sessions related to congregational transformation, mitigation, adaptation and resilience, and justice. The UUA has a multistage process that begins with basic assessments, identifying opportunities, and building consensus. So it's pretty much a bottom-up initiative that we have only just begun.

The possibility of obtaining a grant speeds up this process considerably, and makes it up more of a top-down initiative. Some of the bottom-up work we have done for the green sanctuary effort is being used for this application – for instance, James compiled spreadsheets of our church's electricity and fossil gas use across three years, and Katie is using this information in the application. Dave Rice and Charlie Welch have been benchmarking, answering questions about our buildings and the systems that heat and cool them. Greg White and Danny Hawkins have joined the effort more recently, and I expect this work will also be incorporated into the application.

Some of the work that CAG has been doing may be absorbed into the top-down process—that will probably be worked out in the next several months. Other parts of the work will remain, likely such things as outreach, education, research, and assessments. We hope to have a service early this Fall, and we have an exciting list of people who could potentially present at our Roundtables.

So things are in flux and may seem unsettled for a while. But it's hard to be unhappy to have more people joining the work and to have the potential for major funding for projects!

J. Paul Taylor Center Programs

Cooking Classes

In early July, Elwin Nunn and Peggy Devlin gave the 28th Cooking Class at the J. Paul Taylor Center. These classes help young men living at the center develop life skills. Recently, a separate area for these cooking classes was established and Elwin purchased a microwave oven, a two-burner hot plate and a toaster oven for the class.

Fine Dining

August 12, 2023 will mark 1 year of quarterly Fine Dining events at the J. Paul Taylor Detention Center.

For those of you who are relatively new to the congregation, this church began this program in 2004, and it continued for 10 years through many administration changes at the detention center, with differing levels of cooperation, until we were told, "Don't call us. We'll call you."

However, folks like Elwin Nunn, Gillian Leng, and Peggy Devlin kept in contact with the center until there was an administration willing to give this program another shot. I thank these wonderful people.

We have a rotating cast of people who have worked to provide meals and conversation that is much appreciated by the young men at the center – so much so that it is hard to decide which is appreciated more: Conversation or food.

Southern New Mexico Social Justice Collaborative

Recently, Jane Asche was contacted by the Unitarian Universalist Church of Santa Fe to learn about activities of the Southern NM SJ Collaborative and to explore our interest in developing a UU Network across the state. Our experience with Zoom during the COVID pandemic is helping us overcome the challenges of our dispersed UU community in NM.

Tents to Rents

During August and September, we will be asked to contribute to the Tents to Rents program of the Community of Hope. Our goal is to contribute \$3,000 to this important program.

Tents to Rents raises funds to help people living at Camp Hope, the tent city at the Community of Hope, move into stable housing. This transition is difficult for people; each person's situation is different and the hurdles to be overcome are sometimes heartbreaking in their scope.

Camp Hope is not eligible for federal funding because the tents and the three-sided structures that shelter them from inclement weather are not houses, strictly defined. Thus, there is an enormous need for private funding. On average, 46 people live at Camp Hope—that is 16,790 nights each year of safe and secure sleep provided by Camp Hope to people trying to change their situation in life.

You may contribute to Change for Change or the Tents to Rents program by visiting the GIVE link (Social Justice Fund) at the church's website, by check or cash in an offering envelope (C4C or Tents to Rents on the memo line)

The Little Free Pantry

Clients of our LFP continue to clean it out daily! Jan Thompson's 7-member crew restocks the pantry daily and demand is brisk. Your donations of useful items (small size, easy to open, shelf stable foods/beverages, toiletries) and money are greatly appreciated. This is one way we serve those in our community in food stress. You can donate to this worthy cause by clicking on GIVE at the top of the website.

Stewardship Committee by Steve Hychka



From fall 2022 to date Stewardship administered the 2022 Pledge Drive, calls for additional help to secure the Tombaugh stain glassed window from vandals, funds for the new four paved handicapped parking spots in the north parking lot and helped produce our successful spring auction.

Currently the committee is proposing a grant to help our church and seven other nonprofit organizations in West Texas, New Mexico and Eastern Arizona deal with everyone's need to reduce our carbon footprint. If

successful the grant would fund a number of initiatives the Facilities Committee has explored. UUCLC would also command a communication link with others included in the grant and other nonprofits as they seek our help.

We are also exploring how art work by our late member, John Northcutt, can best be promoted and enjoyed. Recently we received two very special sculptures created by John: our bicycle rack at the front of the Church and a lovely addition to our Sanctuary. (See picture above and on the left)

Our current plans are to produce an October online art auction, hopefully with other Dana Ana nonprofits participating in the offerings. Our target audience is the community of serious art lovers within our electronic reach.



And, members and friends just received statements of their pledges, purchases and payments to UUCLC. While support has been generous and timely, the Finance Committee has noted a summer slow down. (The statement reminded me to make my quarterly pledge payment as the responsibility to do so had been clouded by the joys of a busy summer.)

Which brings us to the 2023 Fall Pledge Drive. The drive will commence in late September with several fun experiences and the very serious work of collecting pledges vital to the continuance of our church's core ministries. We sincerely appreciate your continued generosity of time, talent and treasure!

Sunday Services by Katie Fitzgerald – SundayServices@uuchurchlc.org

The Sunday Services Committee invites to an exciting line up of services for August:

August 6th – Nurturing Spirituality Service Leader: Katie Fitzgerald Service Associate: Kevin Fitzgerald

August 13th – Sacred Harp Singers share with our congregation Shape Note Singing.

August 20th – Who is Rev Rod? Since a lot of you don't know who Rev Rod is, and others remember him from ten years ago, but have to know he may have changed since then; it seems appropriate for him introduce himself as part of the service. We also hope that all of our staff will re-introduce themselves as well. This should be a lively service! You are invited to a Potluck after the 10:30 service. Please bring a dish to share and get to know our staff and congregation members.

August 27th – Ingathering

Inter generational mingling of the waters and welcoming new members. Led by Rev. Rod Thompson. This inter generational service will celebrate community and mark the beginning of the program year. Rev. Rod will be in the pulpit and the choir will perform. Remember to bring your water sample from your summer activities. Bring the family and we'll make it an inter generational happening. Y'all come and join us!

Tombaugh Gallery by Lurene John

There will be no exhibits until September.

History of UUCLC Bicycle Rack by Tammy Schurr



Several things happened simultaneously over the course of a few years. We became a Welcoming Congregation in 2008 with myself and Joel Brown leading that effort and soon after, as a congregation, we'd started participating in the annual (at that time in June) Pride Picnic and Parade. While many people in the congregation attended and sat at our Pride table each year, Rich and Stephanie Richins were mainstays each year applying temporary, UUCLC rainbow, tattoos on Pride attendees that stopped by our table. At the same time Joel was

a mentor to the Prichard boys, Josh and Chase. I was volunteering as an RE teacher and Catherine and I had become “church aunts” to both the Richin girls, Stephanie and Allison, and to Prichard boys, Josh and Chase.

As a church aunt I’d taken Stephanie on bicycle rides and was instrumental in helping Josh get a bicycle. Joel rode his bicycle to work. Occasionally Rebecca, Rich and I would ride our bicycles to church for Sunday services and other church functions. At this point I was well into my new career leading bicycle tours and advocating for better bicycle infrastructure in Las Cruces.

Around 2010 the Green Sanctuary Committee, co-chaired by Joel Brown and Jim Herrick, was formed.

The relationships formed through RE, Welcoming Congregations, and the Green Sanctuary committees started a conversation about the correlation between having a bicycle rack on our campus and aspects of our 1st, 2nd and 7th principals.

- ***The inherent worth and dignity of every person.*** We are a car centric culture and by having a visible bike rack we are welcoming those who, by choice, or by necessity, use a bicycle for transportation.
- ***Justice, equity and compassion in human relations.*** We are saying to our community we value those that either by choice or necessity use a bicycle for transportation.
- ***Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.*** We are deeply concerned about our environment and our dependence on motor vehicles and use of fossil fuels. We wish to promote using a bicycle for transportation to help reduce our individual and collective carbon footprint.

Around this time the City of Las Cruces redesigned Solano Drive, in front of the church, changing from 2 lanes in each direction to a “road diet” of one lane in each direction, a center turn lane, with the addition of 4 foot bicycle lanes in each direction.

With the support and encouragement of Joel Brown, Rebecca and Rich Richins, and Jim Herrick, I approached, then board president, Jane Asche about the need for a bicycle rack at church. The discussion brought up a number of issues; cost, funding, city codes around both form and function of a bicycle rack, placement on the church campus, and whether to go with a premade rack or local artist design.

We made the easy decision first. We wanted a unique and distinctive bicycle rack. Fortunately our congregation is blessed with many artists and we decided to approach metal sculptor and church member John Northcutt about designing and making a bicycle rack. John agreed to come up with a design that met City of Las Cruces codes. Not having any money in the church budget for a rack, Jane graciously agreed to pay for all the materials

and John, equally gracious, donated his time to make it. In the meantime, I met with the long-range planning committee about placement. John submitted his design incorporating a flaming chalice inside a bicycle rim, our small group approved it, Jane purchased the materials, and John started constructing the bicycle rack in the summer of 2011.

On October 8, 2011, myself, John Northcutt, Joel Brown, Stephanie, Rebecca and Rich Richins, along with Josh and Chase Pritchard and Sara Thomas met at John Northcutt's studio to paint the newly completed bicycle rack. In November the bicycle rack was installed in the south parking lot, closest to Solano Dr, using the first two parking spaces.

The month of May is National Bicycle Month. Starting Sunday, May 6, 2012, and until May of 2018, the church kicked off National Bicycle Month in Las Cruces by hosting the annual Bicycle Blessing the first Sunday in May. This event was open to the community and was well attended by both local bicyclists and our congregation. Our choir sang at each blessing while a variety of people both reverends and lay people have given the bike blessing.

Fall 2019, either accidentally or intentionally, it's unknown, a vehicle hit the church bicycle rack damaging it to the extent that it had to be removed from the church campus in order to be repaired. John Northcutt offered to repair it at no cost. It was then moved to John's studio for repair and storage.

It remained at John's until the fall of 2020 when it was moved back to the church campus; however it did not return to its previous location in the south parking lot. John was adamant it not be placed where a vehicle could potentially damage it again. I met with Charlie in late 2020, and we discussed various locations for permanent placement on campus that met the following criteria; accessibility, placement on a hard surface, well lit, didn't block other's access and visible as both a piece of sculpture/artwork and for the safety of bicycles parked there. Until such time as it could be permanently placed it sat at the side of the RE building.

When Charlie was directed by the board of trustee the spring of 2023 to get bids to pave part of the north parking he saw an opportunity to include in that bid a parcel of pavement to place the bicycle rack, on our mutually agreed upon location, in front of the sanctuary facing Solano Drive and in June 2023, it was securely placed there.

Now that the bicycle rack has found its new home It is my hope that we will resume hosting the annual May Bicycle Blessing in 2024.

Requests and Items of Interest

Celebrate Catherine Planning Meeting

The date in September has been selected to celebrate Catherine Massey's 25 years of service with the UUCLC. Our beloved music director deserves a wonderful service and reception to recognize the gifts she has given this congregation over the years. An organizational meeting to plan the celebration will be held on August 20th at 11:30 in the Library. Choir members especially are asked to attend as well as anyone who is interested.

Another way to make this Day of Celebration successful to is submit any photos you have of Catherine over those years to Michael Yaczko at . Your photos will be compiled into a presentation to be shown at the Sunday service. Please make it a priority to send those photos in now!

Game Night Revisited

Have any great ideas for Game Night? Prefer a different night than the first Friday of the month? New food options? Game Night has been on break for the summer but is seeking new ideas before coming back this fall. Email or call Jan Thompson or Sara Thomas soon so we can use your input.

Request: IT Help Needed

IT help is needed by the Climate Action Group in our Green Sanctuary initiative. To help us better understand our use of electricity we plan to intensify our monitoring and will need capable IT skills, particularly in AI and/or Python, in collecting, organizing and analyzing data. If you want to help contact Charlie Welch () or Dave Rice ().

Teach a Class in UUCLC Adult Education and Enrichment this Fall

The fall semester at UUCLC will be here soon with exciting new classes. Instructors who have a great idea for a class only need to fill out a Course Description Form before August 10th. It includes a one paragraph course description with start date, number of classes, start time, end time, class location, minimum and maximum number of participants, and materials needed. Lastly, if open to all ages (like to our RE kids) add: Open to all ages. The instructor will get a class list to contact ahead of the first class about materials needed (if any) to let participants know the cost involved and where to obtain them. A Course Description Form with all the above requirements is available in the UU Library, or an electronic form can be sent to you by asking Sara Thomas, Adult Ed Coordinator.

A catalogue of all offerings will be sent in an e-blast to the congregation. Classes will have a charge of \$15 to register, payable to UUCLC. There are a few free classes too. Classes will be

open to the community through word-of-mouth (invite a friend) and local postings. This outreach would bring more people in contact with UUCLC. Adult enrichment has many benefits: fellowship, new skills, possible new members, and more visibility for our church.

UUCLC T-Shirt Orders

Last day for UU T-shirts orders is Aug 15th. T-shirt colors are the famous neon green, a hot pink and a regular yellow. The design is similar to the last design used. Orders will be available at a self-serve table in the lobby through the Sunday service on Aug 13th. You must pay in advance for an order to be complete. You may also order during church office hours where Cheri will have a stack of forms ready. Delivery will be a couple of weeks after the orders are turned in. There will be a final T shirt order period ending in September, in case you missed the first round. This will allow the last set of T shirts to be delivered before Las Cruces Pride on October 7th. Let's all wear our UUCLC T shirts at Pride!

Request: Tombaugh Gallery Docents

The Gallery Committee is still in need of volunteers to help us manage the art gallery, mostly to serve as docents. You will be fully trained and it is an opportunity to experience the fullness of our window during your shift. Contact Lurene John if you can spend 2 hours a week in the gallery.

Generous Giving by Jack Welch

July was a month of generous giving. Dave and Ginny Rice and Jack Welch and Gayle Trantham made generous gifts for our handicapped parking project which is now complete.

We received three donations in support of scholarships for Womens Spirit weekend. The donors are Elvira Masson, Becka Richins, and Linda Ruchala.

Contributions for our Change 4 Change Fund were received from Jane Asche, Shirley Davis, Dale Emmert, Bill and Katie Fitzgerald, Ed Gomolka, Dan and Deborah Hawkins, and Haney and Lyn Pearson.

Our 'Little Pantry' is supported with gifts from Nancy L Anderson, Jane Asche and Haney and Lyn Pearson. Haney and Lyn also contributed to our KRWG Fund.

Jan Thompson generously used a large portion of her NM Stimulus check for a special gift.

As mentioned above July was a month of generous giving. We are grateful for each gift.

Events of Note

WomenSpirit Registration Will be Ending Soon!

Earlybird Deadline is August 10th where you can save \$10. Final deadline is September 1st. Don't miss this chance to enjoy a relaxing yet energizing weekend in the mountains near Cloudcroft. Registration forms can be found online this year (thanks to Lyn Pearson) just search our church website for WomenSpirit Registration. Paper copies can be found in the UU Library. Past participants were emailed their copy. This beloved annual event includes these workshops: Writing with Rabbitt, Sculpture with Jamie, Somatic Movement with Susan C, Zentangle with Carol, African dance with Marie, Collage with Laurel, and a hike with Rebecca. The theme is Creating Community and it will definitely do so in many ways. We enjoy making new friends, renewing old friendships, singing around the campfire, a talent/no talent show, tasty meals, playing games, rocking chairs on the porch, and beautiful mountain scenery in cool temperatures. Questions? Ask Sara Thomas.

It's finally time to register for a relaxing yet energizing weekend in the mountains near Cloudcroft. A registration form can be found online this year (thanks to Lyn Pearson) clearly labeled in the MEMBERS tab. Paper copies can be found in the Library. Past participants will be emailed their copy.

Don't miss this beloved annual event which includes these workshops: Writing with Rabbitt, Sculpture with Jamie, Somatic Movement with Susan C, Zentangle with Carol, African dance with Marie, Collage with Laurel, and a hike with Rebecca. The theme is Creating Community and it will definitely do so in many ways. We enjoy making new friends, renewing old friendships, singing around the campfire, a talent/no talent show, tasty meals, playing games, rocking chairs on the porch, and beautiful mountain scenery in cool temperatures. Questions? Ask Sara Thomas.

The Tombaugh Gallery

We will not have exhibitions in the gallery until September.

Regularly Scheduled Activities

1st and 3rd Monday – Climate Action Group

The 1st and 3rd Mondays at 7:00 PM May through December 18, 2023, join us on Zoom for a Climate Action Group meeting. [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88911933049?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88911933049?pwd=WkVPdTdyTitJbVpqdHA4U3JybC9VUT09)
[pwd=WkVPdTdyTitJbVpqdHA4U3JybC9VUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88911933049?pwd=WkVPdTdyTitJbVpqdHA4U3JybC9VUT09)

Every Tuesday

T'ai Chi, 10-11 AM in the Religious Education Building great room.

T'ai Chi, 5:45-6:45 PM in the Religious Education Building great room.

Library Hours – 1-3 PM in the library in the Administration Building

Every Wednesday

Caring Conversations meets on Zoom from 9-10

AM. [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87064121421?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87064121421?pwd=QmNhYVlrUTltK1cxRDhSRVdOU01rdz09)

pwd=QmNhYVlrUTltK1cxRDhSRVdOU01rdz09, Meeting ID: 870 6412 1421, Passcode: 564007

Weight Watchers meets at 9:30-11:30 AM in the Religious Education Building great room.

Qi-Gong meets at 11:45 AM-1:00 PM in the Religious Education Building great room.

The Bridge Group plays bridge every Wednesday at 2 pm in the church lobby. If you want to play, contact Nancy Anderson by email, phone, or at church to let her know you would like to be on her weekly contact list.

3rd Thursday – Death Cafe

Please join us the third Thursday of each month for an opportunity to sit with others and share your experiences with death and grieving. In the church Library 6:30-8:00 PM. Contact Brooks Lewis at or leave a voice message at 512-826-1472.

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T'ai Chi, 10-11 AM in the Religious Education Building great room.

T'ai Chi, 5:45-6:45 PM in the Religious Education Building great room.

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1st Friday Game Night on Summer Break

First Friday Game Night is on break until Sept 1st. It may come back in a different format depending on desires. A survey will come out in August to assess what the people who love games and music would like to see.

Every Friday

Yoga, 12 noon until 1 PM in the Religious Education Great Room.

T.G.I.F. – Zoom Together. A great way to end your with your fellow Unitarian

Universalists. [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5755227281?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5755227281?pwd=OEp3RTNkcWNid0tTNHFDNHEzUFNIUT09)

[pwd=OEp3RTNkcWNid0tTNHFDNHEzUFNIUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5755227281?pwd=OEp3RTNkcWNid0tTNHFDNHEzUFNIUT09)

Meeting ID: 575 522 7281

Passcode: 7777777

3rd Friday – Eating Out

Eating out will be on Aug 18 at 5:30 at Paisano Cafe at 1740 Calle de Mercado in Mesilla
RSVP to Janet Martinique or or just complete and submit this form by Thursday, Aug.17th.

3rd Saturday – Desert Spirit CUUPs

This is the 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

Every Sunday – Library

Library Hours — 11:00 to 11:30 AM.

Crafters On Summer Break

Crafters will NOT be meeting all summer. We will start back on Sept 9th, the second Saturday, at 1pm in the RE Great Room. If you want to knit or crochet hats for the needy during the summer, please do. If you need extra yarn for this, contact Carol Stanfill.