

# Unitarian Universalist Church of Las Cruces

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 [uuchurchlc.org/news/newsletter/](http://uuchurchlc.org/news/newsletter/)

Directions from your current location

**2000 South Solano Drive, Las Cruces, NM 88001**

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

## Newsletter

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### September Light

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Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Las Cruces, Vol. 71, Num. 9

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 Minister

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### The Reverend Rod Thompson

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#### Rod's Ruminations



We are off to a great Reunion!

OK, it is more than that. I am your Half-Time Contract Minister for this year together. We had a wonderful Introductory Service where we got to know all of our paid staff, followed by a fun and delicious potluck (did you see that cake with the washtub bass and a road that ran from one door all around and back to another.

Then on the 27th we Mingled the Waters as we shared on a lot of travels and experiences over the summer, that brought us all back together again! Did you feel all that energy? I sure did! It sure felt good.

September means we'll take the next step in figuring out how this half-time ministry will work. My half-month off is from the 1st to the 15th during which I will continue to recover from my clumsy fall and (hopefully) bring some order out of the chaos in my apartment. Of course, I'll be available for emergencies, just as I was in August.

May we all have a great September! See you in church.

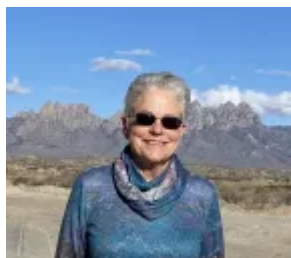


## Our President

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### Susan Hychka

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For me the arrival of September heralds the coming of fall and marks the beginning of a new program year. We officially celebrated this new beginning with our Annual In-Gathering Service on August 27. I love the symbolic mingling of waters collected during our summer excursions. Though we were out of town, I enjoyed watching the service on YouTube and hearing the readings, special music, and Rev. Rod's words of welcome to all. It's good to see the vitality of our community and the joy we feel in being together and supporting one another!

Other articles in this edition of The Light feature the details of our new season, including Religious Education opportunities for our young people, a new set of Adult Education classes, the popular WomenSpirit retreat weekend, and programs that celebrate our new members.

We are planning an all-church picnic after church on Sunday, October 1 at the La Cueva Group Picnic Site near Dripping Springs Natural Area. Some people have already signed up for this event during the Spring Auction, but there will be opportunities to add you and your family to the list during September. We'll have brats, burgers, and vegetarian and vegan options. Attendees will be encouraged to bring a salad, side dish or dessert to share. We will ask for a \$15 per person contribution to defray expenses, and children under 12 are free. Cars must pay a fee to park at the picnic site or at the Dripping Springs parking lot, so you

can also sign up to carpool. Bring games to share, take a hike, or just enjoy food and conversation. We can stay until sunset.

And of course, there's more to discover in The Light, so read on. If you are looking for ways to get more involved with our church and our outreach and ministries to the wider community, you may find them here. The Social Justice Committee has several ministries, including our newest Climate Action Group. The Gallery Committee is looking for more people to serve as docents, the Library Committee hopes to increase hours, and other committees and interest groups would welcome new members. Many hands make light work, and we are stronger when we work together.

## **Board of Trustees**

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### **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**

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### **Kellie Ingram, Director of Religious Education**

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*“By all these lovely tokens, September days are here. With summer’s best of weather, And autumn’s best of cheer.” – H. H. Jackson*

Our desert weather has been so fitting lately, as we welcome the end of summertime and the start of a new church year. I'm personally more than pleased to begin this Ingathering service with our thoughtful new minister! RE students had a fun time creating welcoming table-top decorations (made of flowers and chalices) that were used to decorate the abundant potluck held in honor of Reverend Rod's arrival! They also helped to set up, serve others, and assist with clean up afterwards. A great, big Thanks to all of our caring kiddos, for all of their help!

Religious Education is looking forward to another month of new classroom activities. With much appreciation to everyone who has volunteered their time and skills. This September we will have lessons focused on art, history, and Paganism. Lucky for us, as the days stay cooler some lessons will even be taught outside!

Looking behind, religious education ended August as we have all year- with a potluck. Friends, families, and volunteers gathered together for a BBQ dinner held on the church campus. Looking forward, religious education will start October by separating classrooms as most of our older students begin Our Whole Lives (OWL).\* If you would ever like to hear more about our potlucks, classroom activities, or how you can support the Religious Education program, please reach out to myself (Kellie Ingram) or any of our outstanding committee members. –

Our Whole Lives, or OWL, is a series of six comprehensive sexuality curricula for children, teenagers, young adults and adults published by the Unitarian Universalist Association and the United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Ministries.

## Music and Choir

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**Catherine Massey, Director of Music**

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## MUSIC NOTES

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*“Keep your heart wide open, though the waves try to push you around. You’ve gotta keep your heart wide open, ‘til your faith puts you back on solid ground.”* (Song by Lea Morris)

It seems like we’ve been in turbulent times too long to remember before them. When it rained last week we didn’t use the air conditioning at home or in the car, and I couldn’t remember when that had last occurred (April, maybe?). These are times when I especially appreciate community in all its forms. A smile from a similarly sweat-streaked patron at the gym; lunches with other retired teachers on a weekday; familiar people at the yoga studio; my high school classmates on Facebook; the same birds singing each morning in our back yard while I have tea on the back porch. Jan Thompson’s big 80<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration with folks representing the many circles Jan inhabits. These are all communities that I value.

Our choir has re-gathered with new and familiar faces, and it’s great to hear what we can do together. I’ve selected the key anthems for monthly themes through next May, which helps us tackle tougher pieces while we also enjoy more accessible ones along the way. The congregation has mingled waters at our Ingathering service, launching a promising new year with Rev. Rod Thompson. WomenSpirit will celebrate “Creating Community” in the Sacramentos soon. It’s a theme that reverberates this time of year (minus school community this time for me). I’m thankful that we are able to meet face to face, mindful always that COVID is still very much around. Surrounded by others seeking truth and justice, I savor the solid ground that faith can lead us to.

## Administration

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**Cheri Coffelt, Church Administrator**

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## September

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The Church Office is 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

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### CUUPS by Cassandra Calway –

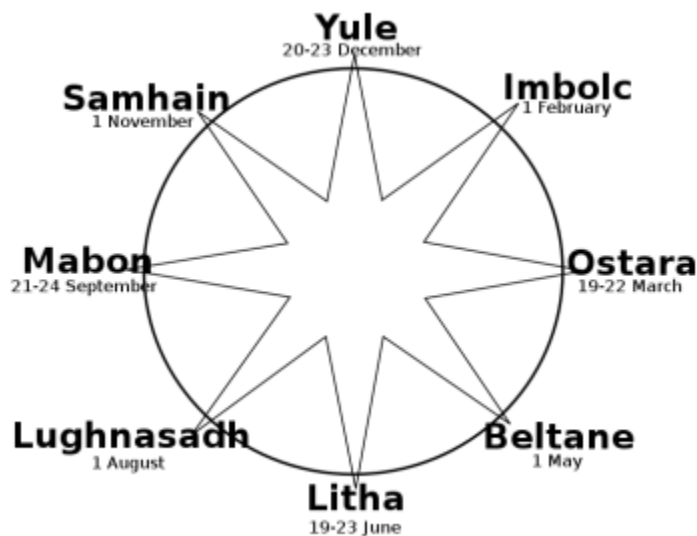
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“Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.”

*The Sixth Source of Affirmation of the Unitarian Universalist Association*

Mabon is a pagan holiday, and one of the eight Wiccan sabbats celebrated during the year. Mabon celebrates the autumnal equinox. Many cultures see the second harvest (after the first harvest Lammas) and equinox as a time for giving thanks. This time of year is when farmers know how well their summer crops did, and how well fed their animals have become. This determines whether you and your family would have enough food for the winter. That is why people used to give thanks around this time, thanks for their crops, and animals, and food.

CUUPS will celebrate Mabon on Saturday, September 23 (note this is a different day, there is a large celebration many of our members will be attending). We will gather for potluck at 6:00 and ritual will begin at 7:00.



The **Wheel of the Year** is an annual cycle of seasonal festivals, observed by a range of modern pagans, marking the year's chief solar events (solstices and equinoxes) and the midpoints between them.

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 –**

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### **Good News From Facilities**

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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 Minister'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 –**

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### **Generous Giving by Jack Welch**

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August has been an active month for special donations. We had four Memorial/ Honor donations. Jeanne Gilbert made gifts in memory of our late member Allie Brooks and late church friend Christopher Landt, Jennifer Trantham's fiancé. Cathy Carver also made a donation in memory of Christopher.

Bill and Katie Fitzgerald and David and Ilene Steele honored and celebrated Jan Thompson's 80th Birthday with generous gifts.

The following members made gifts in support of our Tents To Rents Fund: Nancy L Anderson, David and Sheree Brown, Cathy Carver, Jean Gilbert, Bill and Katie Fitzgerald, Janet Martinique, Elwin Nunn, Haney and Lyn Pearson, and Dave Rice. This fund supports the Las Cruces Community of Hope.

Our Little Pantry received donations from Nancy L Anderson, Cathy Carver, Bill and Katie Fitzgerald, Haney and Lyn Pearson, David and Ilene Steele and Susan West.

Those who generously help provide scholarship funds for our WomenSpirit weekend are



Jean Gilbert, Kevin and Lena Fitzgerald, Susan Lindeman, Becka Richins, and Linda Ruchala.

Our Change 4 Change Fund this quarter is supporting the Childrens Reading Alliance. Contributors to this fund are Angela Keady, Chris Northcutt, Susan West and Dave Rice.

Lastly, we thank Jim Basler for his support of expenses incurred at our annual church campout and Jan Thompson for support of our handicapped parking project. Haney and Lyn Pearson made a donation to Animal Advocates. To each of the above we give our thanks.

## Hospitality

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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

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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

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### New Library Hours

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The library will continue to be open after our Sunday service, from **11-11:30am**. We will discontinue Tuesday and Thursday hours.

Back during the pandemic, many of us felt isolated and lonely. The library committee petitioned to have the library open for a few hours each week so we could actually see each other in person. This was a tremendous help to our maintaining community. There are fewer visitors now to the library, so we have decided to join with Cheri when she has her office hours, **10am to 1pm, Monday-Friday**.

The volunteers will no longer be in the library on Tuesdays and Thursdays, but the check out system is self-service. The card box near the door is where you let us know which books you are borrowing. Instructions are on the shelf near the box. Please come in and check it out. See you in the library!

## Membership by Lyn Pearson –

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September is the month for recruiting hosts and guests for our October Circle Suppers. October! Cooler weather and earlier sunsets. The perfect time for warm casseroles and hot drinks.

### Thanks to Our August Greeters

In August, our greeters were: Jane Asche, Jean Gilbert, Diane Lee, Judy Licht, Ed Long, Haney Pearson, Lisa Peterson, Carol Stanfill, Mark Sukontarak, Gayle Trantham and Jack Welch. 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 .

### New UU Class

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#### 2023 Fall – New UU Class Registration Form (4 class series)

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Registration closes September 30 at 5 PM. NOTE: If you took the 1/2 day New UU class earlier this year, you may still be interested in this class because it gives a deeper perspective of Unitarian Universalism and our own church..

This series of 4 classes is for everyone who wants to explore Unitarian Universalism, whether you're a current church member, contemplating membership, or just interested in learning about the faith.

New UU classes are designed for attendees to get to know each other and better understand Unitarian Universalism. We'll spend some time on our individual faith journeys and consider how that journey may be continued within this religious community. We hope you'll be able to join in the series of four classes to be held on consecutive Sundays after the service.

**WHAT:** New UU Class

**WHEN:** Sundays, October 8, 15, 22, and 29 from 11:30 AM until 1:30 PM (bring a brown bag lunch)

**WHERE:** Church library

**WHO:** Led by Rev. Nancy J Anderson, Minister Emerita and Rev. Rod Thompson our current minister

Priority is given to new members and those interested in joining. If registrations exceed the limit of 12 a second class will be scheduled. Groups will be limited to 12 with a minimum of 6 people. If you want to participate, but are hesitant to come in person, please call the church office. It might be possible to put together a Zoom version of the class. Register

**If you want to attend the classes, please complete and submit this form.**

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## **Social Justice –**

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### **Change for Change**

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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**

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Join us on the 1st and 3rd Mondays at 7:00 PM May through December 18, 2023, on Zoom for a Climate Action Group meeting. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88911933049?pwd=WkVPdTdyTitJbVpqqdHA4U3JybC9VUT09>

### **J. Paul Taylor Center Programs**

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#### **Fine Dining by Haney Pearson**

On August 12, Elvira Mason, Elwin Nunn, Katie Fitzgerald, Laura Jones, Peggy Devlin, and I headed off to the J. Paul Taylor Juvenile Detention Center to share chips and salsa, barbecue brisket on brioche buns with coleslaw, corn on the cob, two slab pies, and ice cream with a bunch of young men.

The slab pies were in 9×13" baking dishes, one was chunky chocolate with cherries and the other was a banana split pie – honest. The adults were fine with a bit of the chunky chocolate, cherry concoction, but the young men had to have both.

Youngsters are kind of finicky about trying new things, i.e. mango salsa. MANGO SALSA!!

Yes, they ate all of the tomato based salsa, but would not try mango salsa until their trusted cooking instructor, Miss Peggy, tried it and gave it thumbs up. However, these south westerners are loath to try any kind of slaw, and for a mid-Atlantic region fellow like myself, why that's down right sacrilegious – especially with BBQ. I wonder what we will have in November?

If you would like to participate in November, please email me directly or at .

#### **Tents to Rents**

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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 top of 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**

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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 by Steve Hychka –**

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**The annual fall pledge drive** will commence on October 1st with an all church picnic at the Dripping Springs La Cava Large Group Shelter (\$15/person and children under 12 are free). Ride sharing is encouraged.

“By their fruits you shall know them.” Matt. 7. Our ministries are our bountiful fruit. 2023 continues to be an important year for the church as much progress has been achieved and more is on the cusp of reality. One can feel a vibe of happiness, pride and satisfaction in our

Congregation at every Sunday Service, religious education program, hospitality hour and meeting.

Our specific needs to support our church ministries in 2024 will be explained in detail in a series of budget meetings hosted by the Finance Committee. So please demonstrate your satisfaction by pledging generously with your time, talent and treasure as you are able.

## **Sunday Services by Katie Fitzgerald –**

## **SundayServices@uuchurchlc.org**

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### **Sept. 3rd Now Our Work Begins**

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There was a time when some Unitarian churches closed during the summer months under the theory that folk needed a rest after fighting against society's ills for nine months. Now that the church year has begun, we hope to fortify ourselves and others for the work ahead.

### **Sept. 10th 2023 General Assembly Report**

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Transformative Messages from the 2023 UUA General Assembly: Shirley Davis, Jan Thompson, and Jane Asche, our voting members at the June 21-25, General Assembly will share with you the compelling news from our Unitarian Universalist Association as it moves forward to actively engage denomination members in the transformation of the world through liberating love. If you are curious how this is happening, this service is for you. Come hear about the core issues upon which our delegates cast their votes.

### **Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> Come As You Are and Bring a Friend**

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Today Rev. Rod Thompson is going to dare you to come as you are, which requires each of us to really know ourselves; and then he is going to dare you to bring a friend to come as they are and become a part of this Beloved Community. Will you take the dare? See you in church.

### **Sept 24<sup>th</sup> Catherine Massey's Anniversary Celebration**

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Celebrating Catherine Massey's 25 years as our director of music. Come join in the celebration!

### **Tombaugh Gallery by Lurene John –**

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Summer is about over, the snowbirds will soon be flocking to their homes in New Mexico, and the Tombaugh Gallery is preparing for a season of exciting shows. Following the service on September 10<sup>th</sup>, there will be a reception featuring artist, Jill Samoza. Jill lit up our Gallery with a popular show a few years ago which she called, "Shards." Homebound for several years, like most of us during the pandemic, she produced an all new series she is calling "Light." Join us for the opening.

In November we will be featuring Navajo rugs that have been collected by Bruce Begin. His interest and advocacy for Native rights began over 40 years ago.

**More Tombaugh Gallery news:**

The Gallery will be closed in October. However, the Church has collected a number of art pieces over the years which will be sold in an online auction. The Gallery will be open for a few days so everyone can have a chance to view this collection before bidding. More information will be posted as the date approaches. October will also be available to any artist or group of artists who would like to feature their work in a “pop-up” show for a day or two or three. Please contact Lurene John at if you are interested.

In January we will be featuring our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Phil Ochs Show. Local artists can submit their art, any medium, that focuses on his song, *I'm Going to Say It Now*. The song is about student activism, particularly the free speech movement. This will be a juried show, with a top prize of \$300 being awarded to the art piece that best represents the song. The song can be found online at <https://genius.com/Phil-ochs-im-going-to-say-it-now-lyrics>. More about this show later but we want to give the artists plenty of time to prepare.

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. Many volunteers have expressed joy at serving in this very quiet and meditative space. Cathy Cox is our docent wrangler email her at .

## Requests and Items of Interest

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### **Request: Would You Like to Join a Covenant Group this Fall?**

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A covenant group is a small relational group made up of six to twelve people who meet regularly to establish and nurture themselves in their own beloved community. Covenant groups provide an opportunity for members to build strong relationships with each other and with the larger church as a whole. Covenant groups encourage people to talk, learn, work, and play together over time.

**Los Compañeros** our newest group will be exploring life paths and journeys every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, 3:00-4:30, at Laura Jones's mobility-accessible house in northeast Las Cruces. The group will use Mark Nepo's *Book of Awakening* as a discussion springboard, and adhere to the Circle processes of honoring dignity, emphasizing connectedness, supporting expression, and honoring confidentiality. I hope you can join us! *In the end, we are all walking each other home.* –Ram Dass

If you would like to join Los Compañeros this fall, please email Laura Jones or .

### **Other Covenant Group Opportunities**

There may be some openings in groups that meet at other times. If you would like to join a group, please email Jeff Harris at .

## **Request: Photos Needed!**

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The Celebrate Catherine Service is coming up on Sept 24<sup>th</sup> to recognize the 25 years of service she has given to the church. Please send photos of Catherine Massey from anytime in that time period to Michael Yaczko at to be included in a photo montage.

## **Request: Tombaugh Gallery Docents**

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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 gorgeous Tombaugh Window during your shift. Contact Lurene John if you can spend 2 hours a week in the gallery.

## **Fall Adult Education and Enrichment Classes Starting**

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Many thanks to our instructors who volunteer their time and skills: Reba Montera (Mindfulness), Judy Licht (Silk Painting), Michael Yaczko (Catching Up with Technology), Rabbitt Loring (Slot Canyon Hike), Shirley Davis (Discuss Issues of Interest), Carol Stanfill (Knitting and Crocheting for Beginners), Sara Thomas ( Best Breakfast Ever), Julie Wood & Katie Fitzgerald (Respectful Relations), and Cheri Coffelt (Swedish Death Cleaning).

Although registration closed at the end of August, there may be a few spots left in some classes. **If you missed out, please check with Sara Thomas during the first week in September** to see if you can be added. Registration tables in the Lobby and Library will stay up during the first week in Sept. Learn new skills and make new friends!

## **UUCLC Game Night is Back!**

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**UUCLC Game Night is back but moving to another night!!** Starting in September, Game Night is back for fun and games! Due to a scheduling conflict with Moonsisters, Game Night is MOVING to the second Friday of each month. It's at the same time, 6:30 pm, and same place, the Religious Education Building Great Room. Bring a snack to share and a favorite game. Hope to see you there!

## **General Assembly: A Once A Year Occurrence**

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General Assembly for the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations occurs in June of each year. As many as 4,000 people attend and enjoy the inspiration and stimulation of like-minded UU's.

You will wear badges listing your name and your congregation, as well as ribbons for all the UU organizations you are part of. You will make new friends. Perhaps you will sing with the choir which performs at daily morning worship services or at the larger worship services like

the Service of the Living Tradition, the Ware Lecture, and the Sunday Worship Service. Imagine singing with new friends whom you have been practicing with all week! That is where we first heard of Emma's Revolution and since then they have often performed in our Sunday Service here in Las Cruces, even performed at evening concerts here.

At General Assembly our congregation has walked in the Banner Parade with our banner made by Evelyn Flowers and others back in the 1990's.

Each year there is a social justice rally: this year we heard inspiring testimonies at the Side with Love Rally. There is work to be done by the 4 delegates our church is allowed: attending daily business meetings, listening to debates and voting on bylaw changes, business resolutions and Actions of Immediate Witness. You will hear about this work in the September 10, Sunday Service.

The **2024 General Assembly** will be virtual on **June 20**. The **2025 General Assembly** will be in Baltimore, MD, with virtual and live attendance. Think about attending! Submitted by Shirley Davis

## Events of Note

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### **WomenSpirit Registration Will be Ending Soon!**

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Time is running out 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

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### **Jill Somoza at the Tombaugh Gallery**

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The Tombaugh Gallery welcomes artist Jill Somoza with an opening reception on Sunday, September 10, from 11 AM to 2 PM. The exhibit continues through October 6. After many years of painting on canvas and paper Ms. Somoza switched to painting on vinyl. Her



paintings are hybrids – sculptural in that they are composed of several irregular shapes made of wooden sticks linked together to create a ‘form’. The shapes are then covered with clear vinyl on which she paints with acrylics. The paintings are non-representational, but the ‘form’ is a real object. The artwork hangs a few inches off the wall by means of feet which allow light to penetrate the translucent vinyl and gives it an air of lightness.



Ms. Somoza, her husband and three children have lived in Las Cruces since 1973, and she has exhibited her work here since then. Ten works of art made in the last three years will be shown at the Tombaugh Gallery located in the Unitarian Universalist Church at 2000 S. Solano Drive. Regular Gallery hours are Thursday through Saturday, 10 am until 2 pm and Sunday, 11 am to 2 pm.



## Regularly Scheduled Activities

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### Every Tuesday

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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.

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

### Every Wednesday

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**Caring Conversations** meets on Zoom from 9-10 AM. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87064121421?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.

**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.

### Every Thursday

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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.

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

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### **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 week with your fellow Unitarian Universalists. [https://us02web.zoom.us](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5755227281?pwd=OEp3RTNkcWNid0tTNHFDNHEzUFNIUT09)

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

Meeting ID: 575 522 7281

Passcode: 7777777

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### **Every Sunday – Library**

Library Hours — 11:00 to 11:30 AM.

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### **Every Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct – Circle Suppers**

Join members and friends at small, intimate dinners in the homes of our volunteer hosts. We recruit hosts and guests in December, March, June, and September for dinners held in January, April, July, and October. If you would like to learn more, please email .

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### **2nd Friday – Game Night**

Join us at 6:30 PM in the Religious Education Building Great Room. Bring a snack to share and a favorite game. Hope to see you there!

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### **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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### **2nd Saturday – Crafty UUs**

Calling all creative and crafty UUs and friends! Our group welcomes all genders, all folks teens through senior citizens, all interested in art, crafts, and creativity.

We will resume monthly meetings on September 9, 1:00 in the Religious Education Building Great Room.

At this first meeting this term we will share our latest creations and think about ideas for our future meetings. Questions? Email

### **3rd Friday – Eating Out**

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Eating Out Group will be going to Lorenzo's Italian Restaurant on the 3rd Friday on Sept 15th. Reservations required at or calling or texting Janet Martinique

### **3rd Saturday – Desert Spirit CUUPs**

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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 .

### **2nd Saturday in Jan, May, Aug, Nov – Fine Dining Experience**

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Dinner at the J Paul Taylor Detention Facility with a group of 14-21 year-old young men. Contact Haney Pearson if you would like to participate.