

Unitarian Universalist Church of Las Cruces

 uuchurchlc.org/news/newsletter/

Newsletter

November Light

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Las Cruces, Vol. 71, Num. 11

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.



Remember to set your clocks back on Saturday night, November 4, so you don't miss church on November 5.

Daylight saving time ends on November 5, and the clocks will fall back one hour. Soon, night will arrive earlier and many might start to notice their energy levels plummeting with the sun. A few strategies—like exposing yourself to daylight, exercising at night, and regulating your meal times—can help you ease the transition.

Our Minister

The Reverend Rod Thompson

Rod's Ruminations

Happy November Everyone!

By now I am hoping to be out of the hospital and Rehab, though still recovering from having a pacemaker installed in my shoulder area. That seems to be working well and hoping the doctor agrees.



I am expecting to be up to speed, with my usual energy, as soon as possible. As a person who is normally energetic, it has been hard on me to need to rest. I am usually so independent, taking care of myself – but now I have had to be dependent on others. It has reminded me of a poem I often quote:

“All our lives we are in need – and others are in need of us.”

I am so grateful to all those of you who have taken care of my needs – particularly Mark Sukontarak, Cathy Cox, Mike Yaczko, Marion Lyding, and Susan Hychka and those of you who offered positive healing thoughts and prayers. I will be back among you as soon as I can.

Be well and stay safe.

Our President

Susan Hychka



NOTICE: Two Congregational Meetings Are Coming Up – Your Participation Is Needed!

For several months a committee of congregation members has been working on revising the UUCLC Bylaws to reflect our current size and operating structure. At the October Board meeting, your Trustees unanimously approved calling a Special Membership Meeting to request your approval for the amended Bylaws.

Amended Bylaws of UUCLC will be presented on **November 5th**, at a Special Membership Meeting, for consideration and approval by the congregation. The meeting will begin at 11:30am, in the sanctuary and via Zoom. Sign ins will start at 11:15 AM so the quorum can be established, and the meeting can begin on time. The Notice of meeting, a copy of the amended Bylaws, and an explanation of the changes were emailed to you by Cheri Coffelt on October 27. They are also posted on our website, <https://www.uuchurchlc.org/members/proposed-2024-bylaw-changes/> in the members section.

After a long and spirited discussion at last night's, 10-30-2023, Bylaws Q and A session, two changes were made to Bylaws draft 4. The Board unanimously approved these revisions late last night, agreeing that this makes clear our commitment to collaboration and shared ministry. Bylaws draft 5 is attached, but to save you searching here are the two changes:

In Article VI, Section 1, bullet point 5 was added to clarify the collaborative responsibility for

decisions related to hiring, firing, and payment of staff (shown in red for your convenience in finding it.)

In Article IX, Section 6, the wording “assumes Executive authority” was changed to “operational authority” and the phrase “after which this will be a collaborative relationship” was makes it clear that once a minister is hired, the Board and Minister will collaborate.

ARTICLE VI – OFFICERS AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

SECTION 1 – POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Board of Trustees shall function as the governing body of the Society. The Board of Trustees shall be responsible for:

- Ensuring the mission and vision of the Society reflect Unitarian Universalist values;
- Adopting policies for the organization and governance of the Society;
- Conducting strategic planning consistent with the Society’s mission and vision;
- Controlling all corporate matters approved and budgeted by the congregation;
- Working collaboratively with the Lead Minister in decisions related to hiring, firing, and payment of staff members;
- Delegating to the Lead Minister, staff and volunteers the tasks of implementing the Society’s strategic plans;
- Safeguarding the property and funds of the church;
- Reviewing the annual budget, revising it as appropriate, and submitting the budget to the Membership for approval.

No person may perform official acts in the name of the Society except as authorized by the Bylaws or the Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE IX – MINISTER

SECTION 6 – VACANCY

In the event of a vacancy, the Board of Trustees assumes operational authority until a Minister is called or appointed, after which this will be a collaborative relationship.

The Leadership Development Committee (LDC) has been removed. Since the Nominating Committee will identify candidates for elected positions, and because our Membership Committee is now handling other functions that the Leadership Development Committee (LDC) once dealt with, the recommended bylaws propose discontinuing the LDC. Classes on various aspects of effective leadership will be offered as part of our Adult Education programming.

Section 3 – The functions of the Committee on Ministry (COM) will change significantly as well. The main duty of the Committee will be to support the minister. COM will also be available to church members for listening and counsel, and they will conduct an annual review of the overall ministry of this church. Membership on the COM will be reduced to three to five members who are identified by the Minister and approved by the Board.

Also, the duties of the minister have been changed. The minister may recommend hiring or termination of employees, but the Board will be responsible for taking those actions, as is appropriate for a pastoral size church. (See Article VI, Section 1 and Article IX, Section 1.) Article VI, Section 3 B has had a description of the procedure for selecting officers clarified. There are several minor edits throughout to correct format and spacing, and a few for word choice or capitalization. Please read the entire document. Both our present Bylaws and the recommended Amended Bylaws are available on the church website.

Our Annual Membership Business and Budget Meeting will be held in person and via Zoom on **Sunday, December 10**, following Sunday service. The meeting will begin at 11:30am, in the sanctuary and via Zoom. Sign ins will start at 11:15 AM so the quorum can be established, and the meeting can begin on time. Look for the official Notice in mid-November. At this meeting, business will include election of Trustees, presentation of a financial report, and adoption of a budget for the next fiscal year that begins on January 1, 2024. Budget Q & A sessions will be offered the week prior to December 10 and will be announced at a later date.

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

"November is the month to rest and be thankful" -Unknown



After navigating the hustle and bustle of a busy October and before navigating the joyfully chaotic holidays of December, this month seems fit for rest and planning and gratitude. For me, rest is recharging my energy battery. That might mean a weekend camping, or turning off my phone, or simply snuggling up with a good book. Since planning requires a clearer focus, all that rest will have me ready to start reorganizing!

Religious Education has several opportunities to join together in the coming weeks. Including our annual Candles and Coco event! A Yule taffy pulling, drumming circles, crafts, potluck and more! This November will also see Religious Education restart our community outreach collection for the "Project Link Homeless Education Org". Last year the church raised and donated a considerable amount of resources and requested items that went on to help dozens of homeless students and their families.

And lastly, gratitude. What are you thankful for this month and this year? Personally, I'm grateful for the love and health of my family and friends. My Papa turned 90 years old this August! This summer, my amazing children insisted on restarting weekly family dinners. And my husband and I will celebrate 25 years of marriage next month. Professionally, I'm thankful for (almost) a year of Last Monday Potlucks! The happiness and hugs given from students, the dedication of the RE committee, the warm "good mornings" back from church members, the arrival of our new minister, and the closeness of the staff.

Music and Choir

Catherine Massey, Director of Music



MUSIC NOTES

The Soul Matters theme for this month is Generosity. It is a month during which musicians

within and without our congregation will generously share their talents in our sanctuary. Of course, there is our church choir—individuals who spend valuable time learning and honing the music we bring. OTP—Old Time Pharmaceuticals—will be with us again. David and Nancy Carlson are available for a special Sunday of their music. Plus perhaps a surprise or two!

On November 3rd we have a special concert in our social justice series—an evening with the Karan Casey Trio. They will offer world-class Celtic music directly from Ireland, benefiting women's rights groups in Las Cruces. This will be from 7-8:30 PM in the sanctuary, and will happen because of a team of congregational volunteers, along with Patrick DeSimeo of OTP and CrucesCreatives, who came together to produce the whole fall concert series.

I am thrilled that we are able to have music in person, and I'm not taking it for granted given our recent COVID experiences. I'm also thankful that other well-known musicians are appearing or making their work available in other ways. We recently heard The Gipsy Kings in El Paso, which gets some musicians that don't make it to Las Cruces. And while I would LOVE to see and hear Taylor Swift and Beyonce in person, those tickets are pretty hard to get. But we can see their recorded concerts on the big screen, in theaters near us. One of my colleagues from Chicago, Amanda Thomas, is currently in Prague to share her amazing soprano voice in Unitarian Universalist worship, along with UUA President Sofia Betancourt. I expect to hear more about this project in the next UU World magazine.

Being grateful during this Thanksgiving month makes me especially appreciate the generosity of all of these musicians, whose music makes me happy.

Administration

Cheri Coffelt, Church Administrator



November

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. We will be closed for

the Thanksgiving holiday, November 22-26.

Committees and Programs

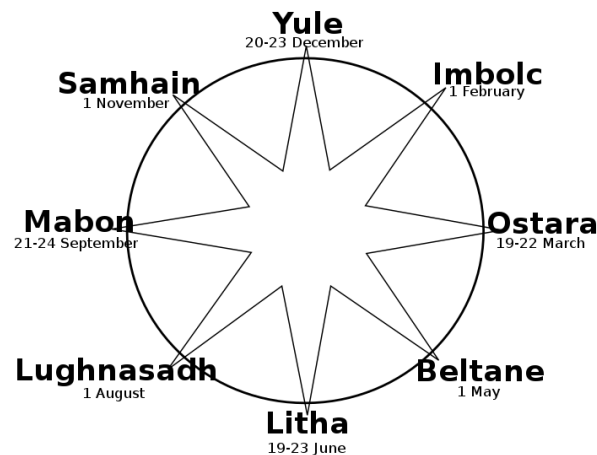
CUUPS by Cassandra Calway –

“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

Yule is the celebration of the Winter Solstice and marked with rituals to welcome the return of the sun. For Pagans this is a time of rebirth, new beginnings, transformation, and getting rid of unwanted habits.

Come out and celebrate Yule with the Desert Spirit CUUPS. We will meet in the sanctuary at 6:30 on December 21, please stay after the service and join us for cookies and cider.



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 (saa-wn): Celebrates the end of harvest season

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

Because a staff member's keys were stolen, we went ahead and re-keyed all the exterior doors on Campus. If you have a permanent need for a new key, call Cheri and she will give you one after you fill out an information card. Be sure to turn in your old key, too. This re-keying only applied to exterior doors. Locks for interior doors can be used with existing keys.

When you get your new key, please follow these simple rules:

- Don't loan your keys to anyone.
- Don't store your keys where someone can steal them.
- When leaving a building, always test the door to make sure it's locked. Most doors close easily but some doors need to be slammed shut.

If you have trouble with your new key, or notice that a particular door doesn't close properly, please let Facilities know.

Finance by Katie Fitzgerald –

To date we have 40 pledges in for 2024. These account for 54% of our goal so if you haven't sent in your pledge for 2024 yet, please do so at your earliest convenience. Thank you!

Our financial picture for 2023 remains healthy with income meeting expenses. We are grateful for your generous and dedicated giving.

Generous Giving by Jack Welch

We are a generous giving congregation. Thank you Jean Gilbert and Clayton Flowers for your gifts to our Religious Education program. Also, we thank Turtle Martinez for her gift for Animal Advocates.

Our Tents To Rents Fund received donations from Nancy L Anderson, David Carlson, Jeffery Fields, David and Ilene Steele, Marie and Karuna Warren and Susan West.. These gifts are added to the ten received in September. This year's goal of \$3,000 was more than doubled. Social Justice chair David Rice report a grand total of \$7,100. Congratulations to all for this "record breaking" response.

We received nine more donations for the gift for Catherine Massey in honor of her 25 years as our Music Director. The additional gifts came from Nancy L Anderson, Cheri Coffelt, Jeffery Fields, Ronald and Dorothy Francey, Ed Gomolka, Brooks Lewis, John Seely, David and Ilene Steele and Greg White. Several members contributed cash to Irene Schultz for the gift, a weekend at the River Bend Spa.

Our Little Pantry received donations from Cathy Carver, Jeanne Gilbert, David and Ilene Steele.

We extend a huge thank you to each of the above individuals. We are a generous congregation.

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

Clean Out Your Library?

We have been inspired by Cheri's Swedish Death Cleaning Class to take another look at things we have been holding on to. One thing many of us have in abundance is books. I found a very satisfying solution—donating books to our church library. I can still read them anytime, I don't have to store them at home, and others can have a chance to enjoy them, too. I had quite a collection of local authors who were my professors at NMSU, or authors for whom I had done editing. Now our library has a Local Authors section. Some sections have topic breakdowns to make books easier to find. Come check out our new organization to see where your books might fit.

A number of our members have donated significant chunks of their libraries to ours. Many books go on our shelves. Some go on our book carts. Some go on to COAS or the Little Free Library. We will find a home for any book that comes into our donation box. See you in the library!

Membership by Lyn Pearson –

Our Newest Member

Please take time to greet and welcome our newest member, Jamie Gibbard. Jamie signed the book this past Sunday, October 29, after completing Rev. Nancy Anderson's New UU class. Her class was extremely well received and we're very pleased Jamie has joined the church.

Circle Suppers

We had several Circle Suppers in October although one was postponed due to our latest Covid issues. The other two went quite well. We hope these dinners continue to thrive and that many more of our members and friends take advantage of meeting new folks in different surroundings. Not to mention having a darn good lunch, supper or dinner! The next Circle Suppers will be in January with calls for hosts and guests in December. We will be using electronic signups because they are fast, accurate and keep the signup sheets from bogging down the lobby. So watch for those signups in December.

We are considering adding at least the main course to the signup for guests. Instead of

“Vegetarian” for the entree, you might see “Vegetarian stew,” or “Vegetarian enchiladas,” or “Fish – salmon.” We’ll see. Why not let a one of the Sunday Membership folks know how you feel about this or drop an email. Everyone is welcome.

Thanks to Our October Greeters

In October, our greeters were: Jane Asche, Jean Gilbert, Steve Hychka, Diane Lee, Ed Long, Tom Packard, Lisa Peterson, Lyn Pearson, Linda Ruchala, Sara Thomas, Jack Welch and Susan West.

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 .

The New Respectful Relations Team by Julie Woody

Our Church has a new group of volunteers trained in Right Relations. Last Spring Peggy Devlin, Katie Fitzgerald, Gillian Leng, Jennifer Trantham, Jack Welch and myself completed a three month Unitarian Universalist Association training with a number of other churches across the country, designed to help us rebuild relationships that have been harmed by conflict.

We will be putting on a workshop **November 11th** and doing the Sunday Service on **November 12th**, as well as speaking to various committees, and covenant groups throughout the Fall to introduce ourselves and our new mission to everyone.

We decided the name Respectful Relations team was a more apt name for who we are and what our work is all about. The mission of the Respectful Relations Team is to provide a safe, nonjudgmental space for members to come together to help restore relationships in a healthy manner when conflict has arisen in keeping with our Covenant of Right Relations.

Our main goal is not to “fix the problem,” but to open the path to rebuild the relationship in a safe nonjudgmental place. We understand that the relationship is more important than the disagreement. All our conversations are confidential. We believe friends can disagree and remain friends! And we know that listening deeply to others is a first step in any restorative process.

Please join us on **Saturday, November 11th** to learn more about our work and how you can be a part of it.

Social Justice –

Tents to Rents: Donors from our church community gave \$7,158 in gifts through the

Unitarian Universalist Church of Las Cruces website and the Tents to Rents site with the Community of Hope. **Thank you, for all who supported this worthy program. THANK YOU!!! Dave Rice, Chair of the Social Justice Committee**

Change for Change

During the Third Quarter (July/August/September) our community collected \$1,302 for the Children's Reading Alliance (CRA). These contributions will help Las Cruces children improve their reading and also help parents of children to work with their children to improve reading skills.

Through the fourth quarter of 2023, the charity receiving our Change for Change offerings is the Mesilla Valley Hospice.

Climate Action Group by James Caufield

The Climate Action Group is currently circulating a survey, and prepping for a service on **November 5**. Dave Rice is meeting with El Paso Electric about a possible presentation at our church. Recently James presented (via Zoom) a brief summary of our group's work to members of the New Mexico UU Collaborative. Our new meeting time is on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 7 PM.

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=WkVPdTdyTitJbVpqdHA4U3JybC9VUT09>

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 **here** or on GIVE at the top of the website.

Animal Advocates Ministry Report

Following the **October 15th** animal themed Sunday Service planned and presented by members of Animal Advocates, the congregation seemed to enjoy the all-vegan coffee hour that was hosted by Animal Advocates in partnership with the Multi-Cultural Awareness Group. Refreshments included vegan coffee cake, vegan cupcakes, breaded baked zucchini sticks, vegan cheese and gluten free crackers, fruit, veggies, mixed nuts, and oat milk coffee creamer. With thanks to Animal Protection New Mexico, we gave away 15-20 copies of the *Friendly Vegan Cookbook*. The Animal Advocates Ministry members express

their sincere appreciation to the Multi-Cultural Awareness Group for their hospitality and adventuresome spirit! Submitted by Dave Steele, Ilene Steele, and Jean Gilbert

Stewardship by Steve Hychka –

Pledge Drive to Date

Two thirds of the way into the 2024 UUCLC pledge campaign we have heard from but 37% of the Congregation. The good news is that the amount pledged so far is 57% of our goal. The final push is now upon us to gather in the outstanding 43% required to meet our budget.

The Church Calendar requires the 2024 budget be approved in November and recommended to the Congregation in early December. We are running out of time!

If you have not pledged you may do so by

- Completing a paper pledge card and returning it to the church by mail, or via the collection plate. There is also a box for pledge cards at the entrance to the sanctuary.
- Pledging on line by using our simple electronic pledge card. Complete the form and be sure to submit the form before leaving the page.
- Or, you can call the church at 575-522-7281 or me at 765-409-3000 and we will complete the online form for you.

In other Stewardship News

The US Department of Energy has offered to negotiate a contract for completion of the energy saving measures our church outlined in its proposal submitted last June as one of a 17 nonprofit consortia we formed. The consortia umbrella organization for the consortia is the Tierra del Sol Housing Corporation. We proposed \$480,000 worth of rehabilitation work on our facilities. The negotiations are scheduled for this November. If awarded our contract will run from 2024 thru 2026.

Sunday Services by Katie Fitzgerald– SundayServices@uuchurchlc.org

Thanks to all who contributed we were able to provide five services in October that were meaningful and timely despite the Covid scare and Rev. Rod's illness. Thank goodness for our ability to share Sunday worship through our Youtube tube channel that allows members to be with us from the safety of their homes. If you missed any of these great services, you can still view them on Youtube!

Upcoming in November we anticipate a service from the Climate Action Group and then one led by the Respectful Relations Team entitled R E S P E C T Aretha Got it Right ! Please join

us.

Tombaugh Gallery by Lurene John –

Call for Artists

The Tombaugh Gallery is inviting artists to submit up to two works of art for an exhibit based on folk singer Phil Ochs' song, "I'm Gonna Say It Now". The exhibit will run January 7th through January 20th, 2024.

Artists may use any medium they prefer, as long as the work relates to the Phil Ochs song. There is no submission fee, and first (\$300), second (\$200), and third (\$100) prizes will be awarded at a reception held on Friday, January 19, between 6:00 and 8:00 PM.

In addition, \$100 will be given for *People's Choice* and a \$100 award for the artist whose work is the best interpretation of the Phil Ochs song.

Artists need to indicate their intent to participate by emailing details of their art piece(s) to no later than December 20. Lyrics of the song can be found in the lower right of the home page of Unitarian Universalist Church website and [here](#).

Artists will be responsible for delivering their artwork to the Tombaugh Gallery on January 5th, between noon and 3:00 PM, and will be responsible for picking up their art after the exhibit ends.

The exhibit is being sponsored by A Still Small Voice (ASSV) nonprofit, the Unitarian Universalist Church and the Tombaugh Gallery.

Requests and Items of Interest

Do You Have a Skill or Interest You Can Share?

There's all kinds of topics others might be interested in. Here are some examples of previous Adult Education and Enrichment Classes: Catching Up with Technology, Tai Chi, Silk Painting, QIM, Hiking, Knitting, Crocheting, Mahjong, Memoir Writing, Book Study, Mediation, Cooking, Swedish Death Cleaning, Respectful Relations, even Worm Charming! You undoubtedly have many more skills and interests to share. New folks have expressed an interest in learning and also meeting others in this context.

Beginning next month in December, anyone with an idea can set up a class with Adult Ed Coordinator Sara Thomas. Just think about when, where, how often and how many. One day workshops work well for some topics. If you need help writing a course description, just ask

Sara. She has a course description form to aid in this. The 2024 Spring Catalog will go out to the congregation in late December. Registration will be in early January and classes can begin anytime after Jan 25th. Don't miss out!

Game Night Collecting Your Unwanted Games!

Game Night has begun collecting games to put on their game cart. If you have any extra games you don't mind passing on, please leave them with Sara Thomas or Jan Thompson, or leave them in the library on the Dropping Off shelf during office hours.

Remember Game Night has moved to the second Friday of the month at 6:30 pm in the Religious Education great room. All welcome!

Events of Note

Karan Casey Concert

November 3rd at 7:00 p.m. at UUCLC

Enjoy an evening of World Class Celtic Music

Join the Karan Casey Trio—singer/songwriter Karan Casey, guitarist Seán Óg, and fiddler/singer Niamh Dunne—for an evening of world-class Celtic music.

Irish folk singer and songwriter Karan Casey, founding vocalist for Irish supergroup Solas, shares her love of ballads, yarns, love songs, and searing versions of social justice songs with audiences worldwide. In 2018, Karan helped found FairPlé, an organization aimed at achieving fairness and gender balance for female performers in Irish traditional and folk music.

Proceeds to benefit women's organizations in Las Cruces. Suggested donation of \$25 or whatever you can afford.

This part of the church's ongoing commitment to social justice and is being presented in cooperation with CrucesCreatives.

You can order tickets in advance **here** or purchase them at the door. There is also a link on our website home page in the lower left quadrant.

Register at: <https://www.crucescreatives.org/event-5421103>

The Tombaugh Gallery

Tombaugh Gallery Features “The Art of Navajo Textiles”



The TOMBAUGH GALLERY is excited to present a show featuring Navajo rugs, an art form that we rarely have the opportunity to see in Southern New Mexico. More than 25 rugs will be on display, selected specifically for the show from various Navajo regions/styles by Bruce Begin. Also available will be Navajo jewelry- mostly sterling silver and turquoise. The colors and designs of Navajo textiles are truly magnificent. They have evolved both over time (since mid 1700's) and by Reservation region.

Bruce has been collecting and selling rugs for over 40 years. He recently traveled in New Mexico, Arizona, Utah and Colorado talking with Trading Post managers, merchants, and some weavers. He has learned that the number of weavers and supply of Navajo rugs (vintage to contemporary) has been on the decline. Covid had an impact, but the big difference is young girls that used to learn weaving from their mothers or grandmothers are going in different directions for work. In addition, many of the young Navajo men, women and families have little interest in rugs. Many have sold rugs owned by the family and moved on.

The show opens in the Tombaugh Gallery with a special opening on the evening of Friday, November 3rd from 5 to 8 pm. A second opening will follow church services on November 5th. Bruce will be available at both openings to answer your questions.

Regularly Scheduled Activities

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?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

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 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/j/5755227281?pwd=OEp3RTNkcWNid0tTNHFDNHEzUFNIUT09>
Meeting ID: 575 522 7281
Passcode: 7777777

Every Sunday – Library

Library Hours — 11:00 to 11:30 AM.

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 .

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!

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.

2nd Saturday – Crafty UUs

The UU Crafters Group meets the second Saturday of each month at 1:00 in the Religious Education building. Come join us to learn new crafts, share your projects, and have fun. All are invited, guys, gals, teens, members, non-members, new crafters, and experts. We share project ideas and always learn fun new crafts. In November we will be sharing our projects and learning something new: origami ornaments. Some supplies to bring, if you have these: origami paper, beads, thread or string.

November 11th at 1:00 p.m. Carol Stanfill and Sara Thomas. Questions? Email

3rd Friday – Eating Out

Eating Out Group will be cancelling the dinners until January, due to Covid concerns. If you have questions, please contact Janet Martinique or send email to .

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 .

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

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.