

VUUPOINT

DECEMBER 2015



Valley Unitarian Universalist
1965 - 2015 50 CONGREGATION
Just the beginning
years

Sunday Services 10:30 A.M.

6400 W. Del Rio Street
Chandler, AZ 85226
480-899-4249
office@vuu.org

Sunday Services 10:30 A.M.

Communion

December 6 *More Than Just Ideas: A Discussion with Rev. Andy and Imam Ahmad Shqeirah*

In light of recent events, Rev. Andy and Imam Ahmad will discuss the real impact of political rhetoric on the local Muslim community and how we might move forward. The Adult Choir will sing Ysaye Barnwell's *Will You Harbor Me?*

December 13 *'Three Wise Women' pageant*

Multi-Generational Service

Adapted by Kelsie Beaudoin, the play is based on the book of the same name by Mary Hoffman. The story incorporates the symbols of the Maiden, the Mother, and the Crone into the familiar story of Jesus' birth. The star calls a young woman away from her bread making in the west; a mother with her baby son from the south; and a grandmother from storytelling in the east, to witness the birth of Jesus. The Holiday Orchestra will play & the Children's Choir will sing.

December 17 *The Longest Night Service - 7-9 p.m.*

The holiday season is often hectic, and may be an especially difficult time for many people. Painful memories from the past can come to the forefront when we least expect it. If you, or someone you love, is struggling with grief, the loss of a loved one, divorce, illness, depression, job loss, or other issues; or are just overwhelmed by the chaos of the season, please plan to attend this quiet, meaningful service.

This "Longest Night" gathering is a calming service recognizing that we are all connected; no one is alone. It provides a safe space where those mixed emotions can be acknowledged; and peace, comfort, and hope brought into the lives of those in need.

Please join us at 7:00 pm on Thursday December 17th in the Sanctuary of Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation. All are welcome. There are flyers in the Sanctuary for this service. We encourage people to take one (or more) and pass them on to any family, friends, colleagues, etc., for whom the service may be meaningful.

December 20 *To Bring the Good News to the Poor: Jesus' Purpose, And Ours* The Rev. Andy Burnette

The Adult Choir and the Bell Choir will perform.

December 24 *Christmas Eve Services*

The Rev. Andy Burnette

There are two Christmas Eve services at Valley Unitarian Universalist this season. Both feature the Rev. Andy Burnette speaking. The **7 p.m.** service also features gifts of music, dance or the spoken word from school-age children and carols sung by all. The **9 p.m.** service has candle light and carols, and the Adult Choir will sing several pieces featuring string instruments. Attendees are encouraged to bring cookies to share between the two services.

December 27 *Nothing Better to Do than Listen*

The Rev. Amy Beltaine

Listening with attention and intention can be the best thing you'll ever do for others and yourself. Listening as a spiritual practice brings you closer to the sacred within and around you. When you listen you may hear other's deepest and most important stories into voice, and you may connect your self to your own heart's song.

DECEMBER EVENTS AT A GLANCE	
12/05 Photo Signup	12/12 Singles to Botanical Gardens
12/06 Great Books Discussion Group	Parents' Night Out
Young Adult Chalice Circle	12/13 Adopt-a-Family gifts due
Pageant costume fitting & Orchestra rehearsal	12/15 Spirit of Life Reading Group
12/10 VUU Women's Group	12/20 Newsletter Deadline
N.S.G. Book Club	Young Adult Chalice Circle
	VUUGS Meeting
Sundays – Dalai Lama & Friends	

“A Moment with the Minister”



Sitting in an Indiana diner early one winter morning, I noticed an elderly couple sharing breakfast. For 20 minutes they picked at a plate of biscuits and gravy without saying a word. They looked at each other, out the window, at the food, but never spoke. Something about these two made me think they had loved one another long enough that they didn't need chatter. It was enough simply to commune.

Our theme this month is communion. The dictionary defines communion as “the sharing of intimate thoughts and feelings, especially when the exchange is on a mental or spiritual level.” In the rush of words that is 21st century Western culture, it is easy to forget that there is a connection beyond language, a power in silent companionship that nourishes the spirit.

Communion is the foundation of good pastoral care. As a chaplain student in a busy city emergency room, I spent time with a Mom who had just lost her 18-year-old son in an auto accident. Sitting with her beside the body of her baby boy, I had to choke down the urge to say something, to offer some advice that she didn't need and I didn't have standing to offer. The most important ministry I could provide was presence, just to hold her hand and cry with her. It means something to go with someone, afraid but unflinching, into the valley of the shadow of death.

Communion can be frightening, maybe especially when we are communing with ourselves. This may be the great spiritual need of our time. With so much to distract us, how do we find time to commune with ourselves and the world around us? How can we sit quietly, a speck in a vast universe, and rediscover awe and wonder and humility? It's easier to talk about our theories of the universe and the self than to commune. What would we find if we were silent for a few hours? If we listened to our neighbors without mentally forming our response? What might be hidden in the silence?

We might just find that there's nothing to fear. That we and those around us are filled with the Spirit of Life. That the Spirit will be faithful to lead us toward the good.

We will open this month in communion with Imam Ahmad Shqairat, leader of the Islamic Community Center of Tempe. He and his community have been threatened with violence in the wake of hateful political rhetoric. We will hear their stories. As Christmas approaches, we will reflect on the birth and life of the peasant Jesus, who has a great deal to say about welcoming refugees. May the spirit which rests at a place too deep for words be found in the coming holidays. You are loved. I am blessed to serve with you.

With love,
Rev. Andy

The deepest of level of communication is not communication, but communion. It is wordless ... beyond speech ... beyond concept.

– [Thomas Merton](#)

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Friends of VUU,

Hope you are enjoying cool weather and warm holiday gatherings!

Your VUU Board of Trustees gathered in November for our annual governance retreat. This year, we were privileged to receive training on best practices by UUA Chief Governance Officer Jim Key.

One of the initiatives that the board agreed to undertake is improving our “linkage” with members. To do so, we will have a board member available for informal two-way conversations following the first Sunday service of each month. You will find us near “The Board Room” sign in the sanctuary, beginning January 3rd. Please stop by—we want to hear from you!

The retreat also resulted in the creation of a Board Working Group on Governance. This subcommittee will review our board policies, recommend updates and monitor our compliance. DeeAnne McClenahan and David Sheh will be leading this effort. (These two do an enormous amount of volunteer work for the congregation, so this is a shout-out of gratitude to them!)

Jim Key talked to us about three levels of governance: fiduciary, strategic and generative. The most mature boards excel at all levels. He encouraged us to add a generative discussion to our agenda to allow for more open-ended reflection on the big issues facing our congregation and community.

On Jim’s advice, we had a generative discussion at our November board meeting. We began by reviewing the Percept study findings on the larger community (which were listed in Board Highlights last month). In summary, the demographic characteristics and beliefs of the larger community are conducive to rapid growth for our congregation. The need is all around us!

But many people do not know about VUU or our denomination. Jim made this point personally during his sermon—he only learned about the UU denomination from a Presbyterian pastor. We all laughed about this, but the lack of awareness about our denomination is a serious barrier to our ability to serve more people.

While the board reflected on this issue of low awareness, we had to admit individually that we keep quiet about our VUU affiliation. We confessed to one another that we keep a low “religious” profile because we are concerned about being misunderstood by work colleagues, clients, neighbors or even family members with different beliefs. That led us to ask ourselves if we are spending too much time in the UU closet!

We were all challenged by Jim Key’s sermon to “Be brave, bold and bodacious!” That’s counter-cultural for many of us, but if we can share the benefits of VUU, we can help so many others in need. For my part, I am seriously considering getting my first tattoo: a UU chalice. If I work up the courage to put it in a visible spot, it should start some interesting conversations!

Trying to be UU loud and proud,

Janice Miller

President

VUU Board of Trustees

LOVE IS OUR DOCTRINE

.....SERVICE IS OUR PRAYER

.....JUSTICE IS OUR CALLING

Religious Education December 2015

Annual VUU Holiday Pageant,

a multi-generational worship service

Sunday, Dec. 13th

Based on the book Three Wise Women by Mary Hoffman

Adapted by Kelsie Beaudoin

This story incorporates the symbols of the Maiden, the Mother, and the Crone into the very familiar story of Jesus' birth. The star calls a young woman away from her bread-making in the west, a mother with her baby son from the south, and a grandmother from story-telling in the east to witness the birth of Jesus.

Children and youth will choose roles, be fitted for costumes and rehearse their parts Sundays Nov 29th & Dec. 6th.



ROCKDALE
W R E A T H S

VUU annual Holiday Wreath Sale: Beautiful holiday wreaths (springs, centerpieces, etc.) are available to order now! The funds raised will be used to support the multi-age service trip to Mexico.

These wreaths are 100% Balsam Fir, 24" across, double sided, 10" thick and are hand made in Maine. The wreaths can be sent directly to the address(es) of your choice, (**great gift idea**). You pick the delivery date!

Please place your order by logging onto our "store" page www.rockdalewreaths.com, in the upper right corner there is a green tab **QUICK CODE**, click on this and type in **4368**, submit.

Orders can also be place with Marci, Credit Cards, checks (payable to VUU, "COA wreath sale" on the memo line), and cash accepted.



What every parent wants for Christmas!

Free time for the grown ups – date night, Christmas shop or just relax while the kids hang with us!

Pizza dinner, Christmas gift making craft, and a holiday movie all included.

When: Saturday, December 12th, 4 – 8 pm

Where: Valley UU Congregation, rooms 1 & 2

How much: \$15 – first child, \$10 additional children

Limited space available – email Marci, re@vuu.org, to reserve spaces for your children.

Sponsored by the VUU Religious Education ministry and the 2016 Multi-age Service trip



OUR WHOLE LIVES for “Elf Owls”

Grade 8-9 Youth and companion Parents’ Group
Spring 2016

We are excited to offer a Unitarian Universalist human sexuality course for Junior High students who will be in **Gr. 8-9** this spring. The course consists of 39 classroom-hours.

OUR WHOLE LIVES (OWL) is a comprehensive lifespan educational program that helps participants gain the knowledge, values and skills they need to lead sexually healthy, responsible lives. This class will address sensitive topics, such as exploring sexual identity, relationships, intercourse, contraception, health safety and communication, among other topics.

The companion **Parents’ Group** references topics explored in the youth class and is an open forum for peer-led questions and discussion. The Parents’ Group is not mandatory, but if you sign-up, full attendance is expected.

Mandatory Orientation Meeting for Parents Only
Sunday, January 10th · 12:30-4:00 p.m.
Adams Room 1&2

FEE: \$135 per Youth / \$120 per Youth of a pledging VUU member

The non-refundable fee covers snacks and class supplies. The Parents’ Group is complimentary.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

12:30 pm – 2:00 pm Session
2:00 pm – 2:15 pm Break
2:15 pm – 3:45 pm Session
(Note 3:15 pm on 1st & last sessions)

SATURDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 am – 10:30 am Session
10:30 am – 10:45 am Break
10:45 am – 12:15 pm Session



Whoo! Whoo? YOU!

Please spread the word!

**Non-members are welcome to join, they
MUST attend Parent Orientation.**

TO ENROLL: Sign-ups are on the RE Table in the Sanctuary, or contact Marci Beaudoin, VUU DLRE at re@vuu.org. or 480-899-4249.

	Day	Start Time	End Time
Jan.	Sun. 1/10	12:30 pm	4:00 pm
	Sun. 1/17	12:30 pm	3:15 pm
MLK	Sat. 1/16	9:00 am	12:15 pm
	Sun. 1/24	12:30 pm	3:45 pm
	Sun. 1/31	12:30 pm	3:45 pm
Feb.	Sun. 2/7	12:30 pm	3:45 pm
PRES	Sat. 2/13	9:00 am	12:15 pm
	Sun. 2/14	12:30 pm	3:45 pm
	Sun. 2/21	12:30 pm	3:45 pm
	Sun. 2/28	12:30 pm	3:45 pm
Mar.	Sun. 3/6	12:30 pm	3:45 pm
	Sun. 3/13		
	Sun. 3/20		
	Sat. 3/26	9:00 am	12:15 pm
	Sun. 3/27		
APR.	Sun. 4/3	12:30 pm	3:45 pm
	Sun. 4/10	12:30 pm	3:45 pm
	Sun. 4/17	10:30 am	
		12:30 pm	3:15 pm

Introducing the 2015-16 UU Common Read: *JUST MERCY*

Each year, a UUS committee chooses a Common Read from a selection of books nominated by Unitarian Universalists, inviting participants to read and discuss a selected title during the year.

Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption by Bryan Stevenson. Just Mercy speaks to justice, mercy, and compassion, themes of concern to us as UUs and as human beings.

Contact Marci if you want to coordinate a group read.

Discounts are available when 5 or more copies are ordered from the UUA bookstore.

Adult Enrichment opportunities

Continuing the Conversation: Racism in Film

Location: Valley UU Sanctuary

Time: 12:00--3:00 pm

Cafes: to be announced

This series will be facilitated by Beverly McCormick and Barb Quijada. The films and conversations afterwards will create an opportunity for deeper understanding of how racist ideas and attitudes are embedded in the culture. How, on a conscious or unconscious level, they support discrimination and violence. The Unitarian Universalist General Assembly of 2015, through a procedure called "Action of Immediate Witness" ** asked each congregation to address this issue. This is one of the approaches we have chosen.

February 7: *To Kill a Mocking Bird*

March 6: *Rosewood*

April 10: *Do the Right Thing*

**Complete document on Action of Immediate Witness is available at the back of the sanctuary.

Spirit of Life reading group

Facilitators: Rebecca Riggs, Mary Rothschild, Anne Schneider

All are welcome to this theologically-oriented reading group led by Mary Rothschild, Rebecca Riggs and Anne Schneider. We meet once a month, usually on the fourth Tuesday evening. For each month, we choose a couple of on-line readings and then discuss them during our session. Theologically, we range from atheist/agnostic to Christian-UU and everything in between. Our purposes are to deepen our spiritual life, enrich our philosophical reflections, and connect with each other in a meaningful way.

Contact maryloganrothschild@gmail.com to be on the mailing list!

DATES: Tuesdays: Dec 15, Jan 19, Feb 16, March 15, April 19, May 17
7 – 8:30 pm in rooms 1 & 2 in the RE complex



The Dalai Lama and Friends Workshop

An opportunity to learn from the Dalai Lama and other Tibetan and modern Buddhist teachers is offered each Sunday from 9-10AM in the RE complex, room 5. There is a reading or recorded audio or video teaching, then group discussion. Everyone is welcome! Various topics are discussed, such as 'how to be more compassionate' or 'dealing with anger' or 'how to meditate'.

If you come early there is also meditation from 8:30-9. Done at 10 - plenty of time to get to the VUU service! ...questions? Just email scottLhenderson@yahoo.com

Child care available starting at 8:30 am.

The N.S.G. (Not So Great) Book Club

We will meet on December 10 at 7:00 at the Monahan home (near 101 & Ray Rd) for our holiday party. We will be selecting books for next year.

Anyone is welcome who enjoys discussing books and who would like to make suggestions for books to read and discuss in 2016. This group does not require that you attend every month – come when the book is of interest to you and you would like to discuss it with others.



Great Books discussion group

The Great Books Discussion Group will have our annual Christmas Potluck party at Kevin's house on December 6. Bring a dish and your lovely selves. The usual schedule. Party starts at 5:30 and ends when the cops show up. Contact Kevin at kebko@yahoo.com with any questions about the party or what we are reading. New members are always welcome.



New Adult Enrichment opportunities

What Moves Us: Unitarian Universalist Theology

Facilitator – Rev. Andy Burnette

Thursdays, beginning in January

7 – 8:30 pm in the sanctuary

To sign up: email Rev. Andy at revandy@vuu.org

Each workshop begins with a simple story of a Unitarian, Universalist, or Unitarian Universalist forebear, naming the emotion—the change of heart—that moved them to new theological understanding in their liberal religious faith. The selections represent some major theological streams of our faith tradition and display our racial, ethnic, gender, and class diversity.

Understanding the Bible: An Introduction for Skeptics, Seekers, and Religious Liberals

Facilitator: Paula Brayden

Dates: 2nd and 4th Sundays: Jan 24 - May 22

Time: 3 - 4 pm

Location: Room 5, RE Complex

Description: *Understanding the Bible* is designed to help empower skeptics, seekers, nonbelievers, and those of a liberal and progressive outlook to reclaim the Bible from literalists. In making accessible some of the best contemporary historical, literary, political, and feminist readings of the Hebrew and Christian scriptures, it encourages all who would find in the biblical heritage an ally and not an enemy in the quest for a more just and humane world.

Contact Paula to register for the class - paula85201@yahoo.com



MUSIC NOTES

HOLIDAY ORCHESTRA! This fun ensemble plays every year for the Holiday Pageant, which this year is during the 10:30 Sunday service on Dec. 13. All ages and stages are welcome, if you have played a band or orchestra instrument for at least one year. There is one rehearsal left on Sunday, Dec. 6 at noon in Room 1 of the RE area. Retired band teacher Karen Mundo is the director this year.

GIFTS from CHILDREN needed: As usual, the early (7 PM) service on Christmas Eve will feature gifts of music, dance, or the spoken word from children. However, we need to plan this service early, so please let me, Marci, or Sue Ringler (office@vuu.org) know in writing by noon on Monday, Dec. 14th if your child has prepared something to perform on Christmas Eve.

BORDERLINKS Study Trip: From Nov. 2-7 I was in Tucson and Nogales, Mexico having what is called an “immersion experience” around issues of migration to the US. It was sponsored by the UU College of Social Justice and the Tucson educational non-profit organization BorderLinks. Sixteen of us attended, primarily UU ministers and seminary students. People have asked me if I had a “good time” on study leave and although it was a “good “(meaning worthwhile) experience, I would say that a better description would be that it was wrenching.

I expected to feel sad viewing the graves of unknown border crossers, including a teenager, whose bones were found on a ranch south of Tucson. But I am not unfamiliar with death and I did not cry then. It was heart-breaking to see the kitchen counter full of items found in the desert near the home of a couple who retired to the desert hoping for quiet beauty. They have unexpectedly developed a 2nd career of finding and helping desert travelers and bearing witness to the suffering of people crossing through their backyard. The small baby shoe, the hand-embroidered cloths that probably once held homemade tortillas, and the notebook full of English words someone was trying to learn, are now all imprinted in my mind.

But what was it that **completely** unglued me? It was watching 39 people be sentenced to 1-6 months of jail time in the US, all in the span of 50 minutes in a Federal Courtroom in Tucson. They were all in shackles. They were mostly young men who looked to be about the ages of my own sons, in their mid-20. What was their crime? They had avoided an official border inspection and crossed into the US more than once. Although they wore headphones to hear a translation of the proceedings, it was clear that many of them did not understand what was going on. In one fell swoop they became felons and part of the narrative that allows both Republican and Democratic politicians to say that over 60% of those illegally crossing into the US are criminals. Most had been apprehended in the desert in the previous day or two and their feet were covered with blisters. They will be jailed at US taxpayer expense and they may or may not receive medical treatment.

I knew that US immigration systems are broken & unfair. I have witnessed injustice and poverty. I have been racked by grief myself. But I did not know about Operation Streamline. Created originally as a deterrent for those crossing from Mexico into the US, it has become a way for US politicians to be “tough on crime.” These prisons have quotas and are now economically vital to many small rural communities in the US. I was ashamed of my ignorance and of a US court that mocked values of freedom and justice. Afterwards, I could not stop sobbing.

continued

I plan to preach on more of my experiences at BorderLinks sometime this winter or spring. I am grateful to the congregation for giving me the opportunity to learn and grow through study leave time such as this and look forward to more conversations as the VUU community continues to learn how it can work for a more just world. I was especially moved by the Prayer/Poem called “Home” featured at one of our evening worship services at BorderLinks. It is by Warsan Shire, who immigrated to England from Somalia with her family as a child, and begins:

*no one leaves home unless
home is the mouth of a shark
you only run for the border
when you see the whole city running as well*

As we begin the Holiday season let us keep our hearts & eyes open and remember that the little baby in the manger was a desert traveler whose parents could not find a place to spend the night until an innkeeper let them stay among the animals.

-The Rev. Kellie Walker Hart



Membership Ministries

YOUNG ADULT Chalice Circle meets on Sundays Dec. 6 & 20 at 11:45 AM in the Board Room in the office area. Please contact Brandon Tenney (or leave a message at office@vuu.org) if you want more information about this small group ministry for “Twenty-Somethings.”

The next **Journey to Membership Session** will be Sunday, **January 31** from noon until 4. If you want to meet other new folks, learn more about Unitarian Universalism in general and membership at Valley UU in particular, you are welcome to attend. Please contact Lauree Perry, Rev. Kellie, or the church office at office@vuu.org to sign up. Lunch will be provided and childcare is available on request.



VUU COMMUNITY

ADOPT A FAMILY FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Valley UU Congregation will again be adopting a family from the Save the Family Foundation for this holiday season. This year, it's a mom and 3 young daughters – including twins! Starting November 29th, Lauree Perry & Frank Quijada will be outside by an Adopt A Family little tree with “ornaments” that are wishes for each person and general needs for the family. With many people from our congregation participating, we should be able to ensure a very happy holiday season for them!

If you do choose to participate, all gifts must be new, wrapped, and returned to VUU by December 13th. For more information, please contact Lauree Perry at Lperry98@earthlink.net, or Frank Quijada at Frank.quijada@gmail.com

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY WISHES!

VUU would like to recognize those Members who are celebrating their 10- plus anniversaries. We're grateful for everything they have contributed over the years to help make VUU a growing and dynamic community. When you see them, please let them know how much we appreciate all they have done over the years!

Members who have anniversaries in December are:

10 to 19 Years:

Mike McBeath

20 to 29 Years:

Kathy & David Melamed

30 to 39 Years:

Rey Bergelin

June Dykstra

Rebecca Riggs

Thank you all so much for being an important part of our Community!

CARING CORNER

For any unmentioned sorrows which are carried inside, we send love and care to all of you who are going through these difficult times. We're here to provide the comfort and support that is needed.

Bobbi & Tricia Ryals-Amato celebrated their two year wedding anniversary on November 23rd. Congratulations!

For any other joys that have happened in the lives of the members of our community recently, we celebrate with you in spirit.

DECEMBER DONATION OF THE MONTH - ARIZONA TAX CREDITS

The December donation of the month is a contribution check to Paz de Cristo. The donation qualifies for an Arizona tax credit, which **reduces state income taxes by the entire amount contributed!**

Arizona state tax credits are also available for contributions to **public schools**.

In either case, the annual maximum is \$200 (Individual Taxpayers) or \$400 (Married Filing Jointly). **The deadline for contributions is December 31**, to receive the Arizona

state tax credit and also claim the amount as an itemized deduction.

For more information visit the Arizona web site www.azdor.gov

Thank you for your continued support of the “Donation of the Month” program. For the month of November, we collected 100 food items for Thanksgiving meals. Great job!



Meeting Change- Our regular meetings are on the 4th Sunday. However, in order not to conflict with the Christmas holiday, this month we will meet on Sunday, December 20th in Rooms 1&2. Visitors are welcome and refreshments are provided due to the hour.

Recycling- If you wonder what is recyclable in your city, please look in the recycling notebook on the Green Sanctuary table. Thanks to John Wurm, it is updated with the most recent flyers from all the East Valley communities.

Garden News- Do you have an extra garden hose, shovel, or wheelbarrow (in good condition) that you don't use any more? The garden needs your extra supplies. Please contact Karen.

Thanks to the many adults and several children who helped on Volunteer Day, 11/14, two new planting beds were prepared and planted. Please bring raked dry leaves (no pet waste) and shredded paper for dry composting ingredients. Place leaves outside the barrel. Place kitchen scraps inside the barrels.

Gardens need constant care. If you'd like to help, please contact Karen at karenstucke@yahoo.com.

Take a walk in the garden!

Have a Merry, Green Holiday Season!

CONGREGATION DIRECTORY

JANUARY 05, 2016 - ABSOLUTELY LAST LAST LAST CHANCE TO HAVE YOUR PHOTO TAKEN FOR THE CONGREGATION DIRECTORY. THIS IS OPEN TO ANYONE WHO ATTENDS OUR SERVICES, MEMBER OR FRIEND.

LIFETOUCH Photography has graciously offered this extra day to make sure our winter members and friends may participate. We can also accommodate those that missed the earlier 7 days of sessions spread out in August and October. Please remember that it takes their photographers 2 hrs before and after for set up and take down. Your signing up therefore is greatly appreciated for their extra effort offered to our congregation.

YOU WILL RECEIVE A FREE 8X10 PHOTOGRAPH. NO PURCHASES NEED BE MADE.

SIGN UP ON LINE WILL START DECEMBER 5TH.... LINK WILL BE ONGOING WEEKLY IN VUU HAPPENINGS AS OF 12/4 ... YOU CAN CALL VUU VOLUNTEER, SHARON KOPINA, TO GET HELP SIGNING UP AFTER THAT DATE ... 815-252-2528

So far we have only photographed 107 households. In the last two programs we photographed 172 in 2011 and 154 in 2006



Let's Have **FUUNd** Together 2016!!

WHAT'S THAT?

FUUNd Together is an exciting auction of fantastic events and services donated by VUU members and friends like **YOU**.

HOW CAN **WE** JOIN THE **FUUNd**?

- 1) Think about a party, service, or **FUUNd** event you can host for old and new friends at VUU. We have plenty of ideas available Sunday mornings at the **FUUNd Together** table.
- 2) REGISTER your donation. Visit the **FUUNd Together** table before or after Sunday Services, or download a donation form at www.vuu.org and email it to fuundtogether@vuu.org. Be sure to pick a date between 3/1/16 and 2/28/17 for your event.
- 3) Fill up your social calendar by bidding during the **FUUNd Together** auction on Sunday mornings in February.

All donations must be received by December 31st. Please help support VUU's mission of love, service, and justice by donating an event or service today. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

How do I Christmas shop at AmazonSmile to benefit VUU?

- CLICK FOR DIRECT LINK TO VUU AMAZONSMILE: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/86-0211838>
- Then simply complete your Amazon shopping through AmazonSmile from your web browser on your computer or mobile device.
- You may also want to add a bookmark to VUU AmazonSmile to make it even easier to return and start your shopping.



VUU EVENTS

VUU WOMEN'S GROUP - ALL ARE WELCOME

This group, which welcomes everyone, meets once a month on the second Thursday of the month at VUU, However, in December we will meet in a member's home and celebrate by telling humorous stories, exchanging cookies and contributing funds to a VUU charity. It will be a fun time for holiday humor and fellowship. Please plan to be with this friendly group.

This year Laurel Hardin will be welcoming all for a special pot luck lunch at her home.

Date and Time: 12 Noon - Thursday, December 10, 2015
 Location: 847 W. 10th Street Mesa, AZ 85201
 (480) 491-9230 (in case you need directions)
 Subject: **Humor**

Laurel will provide a meat main dish, all china, flatware and glasses, ice and coffee. Everyone else is asked to bring a potluck dish-- a vegetarian main dish, a salad, some fruit, a vegetable dish, beverage (tea, lemonade, etc.) or a dessert. Also you might bring a plate of your favorite cookies to share/exchange. Recipes are often requested, so you might bring a few. In addition, we will be taking up a collection to adopt a family through Save the Family in Mesa.

Any questions and to confirm you plan to attend, call Sally Buntschuh (480)396-6541 or Laurel (480)491-9230.

VUU Singles

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, DESERT BOTANICAL GARDEN LUMINARIAS AND LIGHTS, 5:00 PM (*Meet for carpool at 5pm at Starbucks, NW corner of Elliot and Priest or meet at the Desert Botanical Garden at 5:30 pm*)

Las Noches de las Luminarias and ***Bruce Munro: Sonoran Light at Desert Botanical Garden***, The Garden will come to life with the soft glow from more than 8,000 hand lit luminaria bags, thousands of white twinkle lights and Munro's vibrant works of art. As you walk the paths with a warm cup of cider, the sounds of handbells ringing and Mariachis singing will remind you of what the season is all about. *Food and beverage available for an additional charge. For tickets call 480-481-8188 (or order online).*

Everyone interested needs to order their tickets NOW!(This event will sell out!) - Please RSVP by replying all to this email or contact Tim (612-298-6072) or Claudette (973-768-6047) by text. SINCE THE 4TH FRIDAY OF THE MONTH IN DECEMBER IS CHRISTMAS DAY, THIS WILL REPLACE OUR MONTHLY DINNER.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2016, CITY SCAPES—A MUSICAL TRAVELOGUE, Tempe Center for the Arts (More details to follow)

The Arizona Wind Symphony is presenting a whole season of shows so let's plan to attend this one together. Check it out on their website arizonawindsymphony.com. All shows are held at the Tempe Center for the Arts at 700 W. Rio Salado Parkway, between Mill and Priest. Tickets are \$9 plus any applicable fees. You can [buy tickets online](#) or at the box office the night of the performance. (Our very own Kerrie Vespaziani plays in the orchestra!)

Wayfarers

Due to Holiday conflicts there won't be a December Happy HoUUr. We will resume in January.



Coming up early next year is UU day at the Legislature. This is an opportunity for UU's from around the state to meet with their legislators and discuss issues of importance to us.

Please mark these dates and times on your calendar:

Saturday January 24th 2016 from 1:00 – 2:30pm: Day at the Legislature (DatL) Training. Held in the sanctuary of the UU church in Chandler

Monday, February 15th 2016: UU Day at the Legislature, Downtown in the Arizona state capitol.

During the Training in January we will discuss the best ways to approach your representatives organize into teams.

This will be an excellent way to connect with UU's from around the state and to petition our elected representatives directly.

Any questions please contact David at sdavid471@cox.net

Deadline for January newsletter is December 20

*Happy
Holidays*



CARING AND CONCERNS NEIGHBORHOOD CONTACTS

As the old year ends and the new one begins, please let us know if there's something we can do to help you feel supported and connected. Perhaps invite someone over who may be missing their own family. If we all look out for one another, this will be a wonderful season!

If there's a situation coming up you'll need help with, or you have a joy to share, contact your Neighborhood Contact. We're ready to be of assistance.

Your Neighborhood Contacts are:

Ahwatukee - Zips: 85040, 85044, 85045, 85048, 85076

Carl Anderson	480-899-4453	canderaz@cox.net
Donna Bennett	480-570-4024	donnaben22@gmail.com
Jennifer Glick	480-220-8063	jennifer.glick@asu.edu

Phoenix, Scottsdale, Glendale, North Tempe- Zips: 85006, 85008, 85014, 85020, 85021, 85022, 85029, 85034, 85037, 85042, 85066, 85250, 85251, 85257, 85268, 85302, 85339, 85274, 85281, 85282, 85285

Lauree Perry	480-839-9296	lperry98@earthlink.net
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Tempe South - Zips: 85283, 85284

DiAnna Farmer	480-413-0293	dianna_farmer@hotmail.com
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Mesa West - Zips: 85201, 85202, 85210

Mary Jo Bitner	480-831-5518	
Laurel Hardin	480-491-9320	laurelbhardin@gmail.com
Debbe Simpkins	480-831-2915	friendsofdebbe@gmail.com

Mesa East, including Apache Junction:

Zips: 85118, 85203, 85204, 85205, 85206, 85207, 85208, 85209, 85213, 85215, 85217, 85218, 85219, 85220, 85275

Betty Barnes	480-962-1526	bettyjbarnes@cox.net
Joel Sannes	480-464-6772	joelsannes@gmail.com
Diana Woods	480-835-5621	dianawoods@hotmail.com

Gilbert, including Higley - Zips: 85212, 85233, 85234, 85236, 85295, 85296, 85297, 85298

Amy & Michael Morrison	602-881-3724	amy_cccslp@yahoo.com
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Chandler

North - Zips: 85224, 85226

South, including Sun Lakes, Queen Creek, Casa Grande

Zips: 85122, 85222, 85225, 85123, 85131, 85138, 85139, 85142, 85143, 85239, 85242, 85243, 85244, 85246, 85248, 85249, 85286

Barbara Face	480-961-3223	barbara_face@qwest.net
Stacey Laughrey	480-399-4450	staceylrn@gmail.com
Jacqui Meriweather	480-491-0546	jacquelinea.meriweather@gmail.com
Jane Murray		ellen.bayer47@gmail.com

***We need more Neighborhood Contacts to fully cover all areas. If you would like to help strengthen the bonds of community in our congregation, please contact Lauree Perry.

There is a way for your joys and sorrows to be mentioned in the newsletter. Just send an email to caring@vuu.org. You can also request to be contacted by the minister, a Lay Pastoral Associate, and/or your Neighborhood Contact this way.



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VUU STAFF

The Reverend Andy Burnette, Senior Minister
Reverend Kellie Walker, Minister of Music
Sue Ringler, Congregation Administrator
Marcie Beaudoin, Director of Lifespan Religious Education
Kelsie Beaudoin, Assistant Director of Religious Education
Joe Martin, Maintenance Technician
Aleks Izotov, Pianist

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