



# VUUPOINT January 2019



Valley  
Unitarian  
Universalist  
CONGREGATION

*Sunday Service Times*

*9:15 A.M.*

*&*

*11:30 A.M.*

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



Sunday Services 9:15 A.M. & 11:30 A.M.

VUU Website: <http://www.vuu.org/> VUU Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/ValleyUU/>

Your Sunday Bulletin is now posted on the website.

Go to vuu.org and click on Sunday Bulletin at the top of the home page.

*Our January Theme is Grace*

**1/6 Two Far Apart?**  
Jill Khalaghi on piano.

Rev. Dr. Gene Lowry

**1/13 Goodness, Grace and Wrestling with God: The Search for Goodness, Grace and God from the Perspective of an Atheist.**

Randy Galbraith

**1/20 The Fusion of Stardust**

Rev. Dr. Cari Jackson

**1/27 The Diversity of Grace**  
The Adult Choir sings.

Roz Hawkins, Katie Hurstwicker & Frances Campos-Outcalt

Events at a Glance

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1/01 PSWD Registration Begins   | 1/17 The Page Turners (formerly N.S.G)  |
| 1/04 Singles Game Night   | 1/18 Wayfarers Happy HoUUr  |
| 1/06 Spectrum Meeting<br>VUU 101<br>FF Coming of Age Orientation<br>The Board Room<br>Cakes for the Queen of Heaven | 1/20 A Room with a VUU<br>Spectrum Meeting<br>VUU 101<br>Newsletter Deadline<br>Cakes for the Queen of Heaven |
| 1/08 Chalice Ringers Rehearsals Begin   | 1/22 Chalice Singers Rehearsals Begin   |
| 1/10 EastVUUs Meet  | 1/25 Singles Monthly Dinner   |
| 1/12 Singles Foreign Movie & Food Night   | 1/27 Women’s Group<br>7 <sup>th</sup> Principle & My Impact<br>OWL Sessions Begin                             |
| 1/13 VUUJAZ Conversation<br>A Room with a VUU<br>VUU 101  | 1/31 East VUUs Social Night   |

Sundays– Dalai Lama & Friends; Monthly Workshop Theme Discussions  
Tuesdays – Adult Choir Rehearses

**LOVE IS OUR DOCTRINE**  
**.....SERVICE IS OUR PRAYER**  
**.....JUSTICE IS OUR CALLING**



## “A Moment with the Minister”

We live in a culture fashioned around transactions. Some are almost involuntary. The stoplight turns green, I honk at the person in front of me who is looking at their phone and not moving, then I go. I give the grocery store clerk just the right amount of money, and I am allowed to take home bags full of food. That one seems like a miracle if I don't think about it very long. My youngest daughter, Josie, and some of her pals decided they would get in on the action and hawk the many errant golf balls that golfers shank onto the lawns in our neighborhood. The girls set up a little table right where the golfers steer their carts across the street to get to the next tee box. A dollar per ball, their sign declared.

Their first customer, who had just paid \$75 to roll a ball into a hole 18 times, told them they were charging too much and talked them into selling him a ball for half of the original price. He only bought one. Some will say this haggling hack taught the kids a lesson that day. I say he's a grump.

Transactional thinking can blind us to the beauties of life. Thankfully, the world is seasoned with grace. We can't go shopping for grace. It finds us and, if we are open to it, it makes tender our transactional hearts. A pink and orange sunset, holiday lights on a saguaro, the face of a dear one emanating love... grace.

It would be absurd to stand atop South Mountain and offer a hundred bucks for ten more minutes of sunset, or to ask our loved one to look at us 'that way' again. That isn't how grace works. These beauties appear, and are ours for the enjoying, but they exist whether we notice them or not. The trick to experiencing moments of grace is to live with our hearts open, noticing, moving slowly enough that we don't blow right by grace on the way to something less important. Hindu guru Ramakrishna said, "The winds of god's grace are always blowing, it is for us to raise our sails." I figure that's about right.

I'm not much on new year's resolutions. By February, they become nagging houseguests whose welcome is long worn out. But I do think I'll try in 2019 to do a little less and be a little more. I want to raise the sails of my spirit and be guided by the ever-present winds of grace. In the coming year, may grace find you often, and may you be open to its offer of transformation.

With love,  
Rev. Andy



“Like any other gift, the gift of grace can be yours only if you'll reach out and take it. Maybe being able to reach out and take it is a gift too.” Frederick Buechner

Photo by Plush Design Studio on Unsplash

**We will miss our fearless leader this month but we are committed to the care and feeding of our Senior Minister:** *I am on sabbatical until February 1. Like most Unitarian Universalist parish ministers, I earn one month of sabbatical per year. Sabbatical is a time free of day-to-day congregational responsibilities intended to replenish the spirit, reconnect with family and friends, and afford time for study. Among the activities I have planned are a week's trip to Boston to study family systems theory with colleagues, work with two local organizations on transgender rights, writing an article on the practice of congregational ministry, and work with a spiritual director. Of course, I'll also be building in time for family and friends.*

*It will be good to talk with you in February. Until then, have a wonderful month!*

Love, Rev. Andy

**Rev. Andy has lined up some awesome people to preach during January. You won't want to miss a single Sunday! Here is a preview:**

**On January 6, Rev. Dr. Gene Lowry will be joining us.** The Rev. Dr. Eugene L. Lowry served as professor of preaching for over 30 years at Saint Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, MO. Now that he is no longer actively serving as the William K. McElvaney Professor of Preaching, his travels as preacher, teacher and pianist have broadened in scope.



Ordained a United Methodist minister, Dr. Lowry's academic preparation includes four degrees, culminating with a doctorate in the philosophy of education from the University of Kansas.

He was Senior Scholar in Residence at Drew University: The Theological School in fall 2003 and fall 2004. In the spring of 1999 he was a guest preacher at Princeton Theological Seminary. Lowry has been featured in the Great Preachers video series on the Odyssey Television Channel. He has been invited to deliver the Lyman Beecher Lectures on Preaching at Yale Divinity School in October of 2009.

Through the years he has preached in hundreds of churches, conferences, and regional events in over 20 denominations as well as lecturing in over 40 graduate theological seminaries across North America.

His writings include six books on narrative preaching and over twenty journal articles and book chapters on preaching, worship, Biblical study, educational philosophy and creativity. His keyboard lecture/concerts relating jazz and Christianity have resulted in four recordings in the blues/jazz mode.

Listen to a sampling of Gene's piano work on his website: [www.eugenelowry.com](http://www.eugenelowry.com).



**On January 20, MLK Sunday, Rev. Dr. Cari Jackson will be joining us.**

Rev. Dr. Cari Jackson is RCRC's Executive for Religious Leadership and Advocacy responsible for equipping, galvanizing and collaborating with religious leaders to advocate on behalf of women's moral agency and justice. Dr. Cari came on staff at RCRC after serving as capacity-building consultant. An ordained minister in United Church of Christ (UCC), Dr.

Cari has served as pastor of congregations in UCC, United Methodist Church and Presbyterian Church-USA. She is adjunct faculty at Union Theological Seminary and One Spirit Interfaith Seminary, where she teaches "The Christian Chase for Power" and "Ministry in Multicultural Contexts." As a pastor, she has led numerous community forums, prayer vigils, and marches advocating for a range of social justice issues. Dr. Cari holds a Ph.D. in Christian Social Ethics, Master of Divinity, Juris Doctor, and B.A. in Psychology and Sociology. She is the author five books including *Love Like You've Never Been Hurt* and *For the Souls of Black Folks*.

From Dr. Jackson: "My sermon title and text for January 20, MLK Sunday:

**Title: The Fusion of Stardust;**

Texts: Psalm 36:5-9 (NIV or Message translation) AND

"Every aspect of Nature reveals a deep mystery and touches our sense of wonder and awe. Those afraid of the universe as it really is, those who pretend to nonexistent knowledge and envision a Cosmos centered on human beings will prefer the fleeting comforts of superstition. They avoid rather than confront the world. But those with the courage to explore the weave and structure of the Cosmos, even where it differs profoundly from their wishes and prejudices, will penetrate its deepest mysteries." — Carl Sagan, Cosmos

**On Sunday, January 13** our own Randy Galbraith will preach. His sermon title is, "Goodness, Grace and Wrestling with God: The search for goodness, grace and God from the perspective of an atheist" Sounds facinating! You won't want to miss this.



And **on our final Sunday in January, the 27<sup>th</sup>**, Roz Hawkins will lead a panel of VUU Women in a discussion of Race and Grace. Reflections from Roz, Katie Hurstwicker & Frances Campos-Outcalt on how grace plays a role in managing racial disparities.

## BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Message from the President:

As I write this, I am headed to sub-freezing highs and single-digit lows in Santa Fe to spend the New Year's weekend with my husband's family. It'll be a good reminder that not everyone goes Christmas shopping in short sleeves. It is snowing there right now, something I have missed (sort-of) for the fourteen years I've been in Arizona. Beyond the snow and cold, I look forward to this short sabbatical, and especially some quiet time after a really busy year, and rejuvenating my mind for what is to come. Our Senior Minister leaves today also for his annual month-long sabbatical, returning in February with renewed energy, new learning, and innovative ideas. May you all have some time to decompress and enjoy as we ring in 2019.

The Board has been diligent in working between meetings to process and digest the items we set out to discuss at those meetings - policies, new initiatives, stewardship and finance and ministerial reports. We come prepared, our discussion is robust, and we rarely land where we expected to, because as a team we are able to process new and better ways than we can each consider alone. Together we watch and hear and talk about the great work being done in the crowded corners of VUU in service to our vision. Each of us enjoys spending more time in community on Sunday mornings with so many of you, and more visitors than ever before. Most impressive in recent weeks has been attendance at Faith Formation Hour between services; lifelong learning and sharing is measured exponentially from any prior year for adults, and children/youth attendance is growing as well. Words from [our vision and ends](#) comes to our minds those mornings - words like transformation, radical hospitality, intergenerational experience, innovative congregation, and partnerships.

VUU has never in my experience been labeled as stationary or stagnant, and 2019 appears to be driving us faster toward even greater transformation. At the wheel of two vehicles are the Capital Planning and Capital Campaign Committees who are completing a feasibility study and opening conversation with our architects on the road to the next phase in creating more space for even more good work. Social action, Sunday morning worship, covenantal and social groups are thriving, and welcoming new and old comers regularly. Our East Valley group grows and blossoms in the desert winter.

I hope your holidays were filled with love, and you are able to take a breath as we enter this New Year. As my dear singer-songwriter friend Sarah Dan Jones wrote, "When I breathe in, I breathe in peace; when I breathe out, I breathe out love."

Breathe, and then hang on for the ride. Better yet, grab the shared wheel with us, friends.

DeeAnne McClenahan, President of the Board of Trustees

602.214.4608 [deeannemcc@gmail.com](mailto:deeannemcc@gmail.com)

## Faith Formation Ministry January 2019

Welcome 2019- already starting out to be a very busy year.



If you haven't already met her, our new faith formation assistant is Hayley Wynne. Hayley is doing a fantastic job – introduce yourself sometime!

Please note some changes have been made to adult program locations and dates.

Young Adult (18 - 35 yr olds) Our Whole Lives starts January 27<sup>th</sup>, contact me to get on the pre-registration list. Full calendar available and more info available on VUU website <http://www.vuu.org/edu/whole-lives-human-sexuality-classes/>

### ADULT FAITH FORMATION OFFERINGS

See program descriptions below

	<b><u>1st Sunday</u></b> 1/6, 2/3, 3/3, 4/7	<b><u>2nd Sunday</u></b> 1/13, 2/10, 3/10, 4/14	<b><u>3rd Sunday</u></b> 1/20, 2/17, 3/17, **4/21	<b><u>4th Sunday</u></b> 1/27, 2/24, 3/24, 4/28
<b>Worship Theme discussions</b>	Conference Room	Conference Room	Conference Room	Conference Room
<b>Dalai Lama and Friends</b>	room 1	room 1	room 1	room 1
VUUJAZ Conversations		Board Room		
<b>Cakes for the Queen of Heaven</b> (Nov 4 – April 7)	Board room		Board room	
<b>A Room with a VUU: Using Contemporary Latinx Art to Explore our Values</b> <b>FULL</b>		Sanctuary library	Sanctuary library	
<b>7th Principle and My Impact</b> <b>Note: Change in dates and location</b>				Board Room
<b>VUU 101 – January 6, 13, 20</b>	Sanctuary	Sanctuary	Sanctuary	

## Coming of Age [http://www.vuu.org/edu/coming-of-age\\_2019/](http://www.vuu.org/edu/coming-of-age_2019/) or contact Marci

- 1) Orientation for parents & youth: January 6, 2019
- 2) 5-month long program, open to youth in high school. Heritage trip to Boston follows close of program.
- 3) Fundraising for Boston trip has already begun, join us!
- 4) Mentors needed!!

**Goals of mentoring:** create relationships between youth and non-parental adults; provide a safe space for questions and learning, support youth in their faith development.

**Expectations:** Attend kick off bar-b-que (January 20) and select COA sessions, join us for the team building day in Tucson (March 9). Meet monthly with mentee - be their sounding board and cheerleader. Attend banquet (May 4) and introduce your mentee.

## Our Whole Lives for Young Adults (meets Sunday afternoons & some Saturdays)

Our Whole Lives is a series of comprehensive sexuality education courses. The Young Adult (YA) course focuses on life issues such as increased independence, dating/partnering, children, identity-development, and decision making. The program provides the skills, knowledge and values to help people lead sexually healthy and responsible lives. <http://www.vuu.org/edu/whole-lives-human-sexuality-classes/>



**Schedule:** 14 sessions, most Sundays (1-3 pm) & 3 Saturdays (10am – 12pm), Jan 27<sup>th</sup> – April 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Fee:** \$25 VUU member/\$35 non-members (payment plans/scholarships available)

**Childcare:** Available for a fee, mention need during registration.

**Registration:** Contact Marci Beaudoin, [faithform@vuu.org](mailto:faithform@vuu.org) to sign up

## VUU 101 is coming back in January 2019

Curious about how things work here at VUU?

Missed out on previous Saturday morning Trainings held by the Leadership Development Committee?

Want a chance to get some of your questions answered?

Coming in January these sessions are returning as a Faith Formation class to be held between the services at VUU.

On January 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> we will be presenting the updated version of VUU 101 in the Sanctuary.

This class will cover the UUA, a brief history of VUU, Congregational governance and structure and how to get something done at VUU.

Hope to see you there!



## MONTHLY WORSHIP THEME DISCUSSIONS

Facilitated by Rev. Andy Burnette, Molly Greiner, Rosaland Hawkins, and Dianne Haskell

**Change in location: This discussion group will meet in the conference room, in the office building.**

Large group discussion around the monthly worship theme, see your Touchstones for theme notification. Our theme for January is Grace. Facilitators will share the schedule and may not announce previous to gathering who is facilitating on a specific Sunday. Group will convene near the front of the sanctuary.



## The Dalai Lama and Friends Workshop

Facilitated by David Black and Melanie Cloonan-Schulte

An opportunity to learn from the Dalai Lama and other modern Buddhist teachers is offered each Sunday. The program is offered in 2 parts:

\*8:30 - 9 am, room 5: meditation

\*10:30 - 11:20 am, room 1: Group discussion of presentations on topics such as how to be more compassionate, cultivating our mind, dealing with anger, or how to meditate.

Questions? Just email [DavidBlackDLF@gmail.com](mailto:DavidBlackDLF@gmail.com)

**Every Sunday - child care is available at 8:30 am in the room #6**

## 7<sup>th</sup> Principle and My Impact, discussion group

Led by Jerry Waters

**Note changes in dates and meeting location: We will meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month in the board room.**

Focusing on the 7<sup>th</sup> Principle: *Respect for the interdependent web of all existence, of which we are a part*, how are we affecting our planet? Discussions will revolve around climate change, blue zones, mining, food production and more!

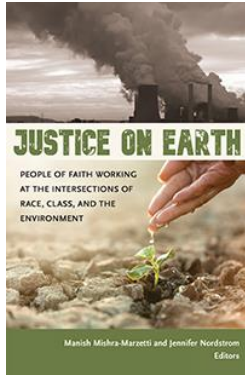
Meeting dates: **1/27, 2/24, 3/24, 4/28**

## VUUJAZ CONVERSATIONS

Facilitated by Anne Schneider

We will meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month in the board room.

A monthly “coffee conversation” for anyone interested in improving social justice through public policy using education, public witness, and participation in UU Day at the Legislature. We will share what we are doing, thinking, wondering, worrying about, and other information! All are welcome! For more information, contact [legislativeadvocacy@vuu.org](mailto:legislativeadvocacy@vuu.org).



## The 2018-19 UUA Common Read (weeknight program)

Jayne Burgess will facilitate Monday evenings: Feb 4<sup>th</sup>, March 4<sup>th</sup> & April 1<sup>st</sup>, 7 pm, VUU board room

This highly anticipated anthology presents a powerful and penetrating look at environmental justice from some of the key thinkers and activists in Unitarian Universalism today. Fourteen activist ministers and lay leaders apply a keen intersectional analysis to the environmental crisis, revealing ways that capitalism, white supremacy, patriarchy, and other systems of oppression intersect with and contribute to ecological devastation. They

also explore how spiritual practices, congregational organizing, and progressive theology can inform faith-based justice work in the twenty-first century.

### **Purchase your book:**

UUA bookstore <https://www.uuabookstore.org/Justice-on-Earth-P18357.aspx>

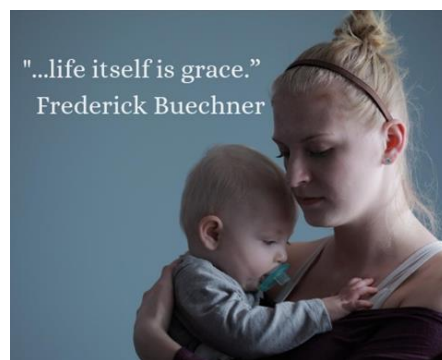
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## The Page Turners (formerly known as The N.S.G Book Club)

The N.S.G. Book Club has a new name to reflect our love of reading. We are now The Page Turners. If you find yourself saying just one more page before you put a book down, then this group is for you. This group is open to all members, visitors, and friends of VUU who enjoy reading and discussing a variety of books. We meet once a month at the home of Johnnie Godfrey in Tempe (near Baseline Rd. and the 101). The January meeting will be on January 17 at 7:15 p.m. The January book is Still Life by Louise Penny. This awarding winning mystery novel introduces detective Armand Gamache who investigates a suspicious death in a village south of Montreal.

For the meeting address or questions, please contact Johnnie at 480-839-0544, Amy at 480-917-1922, or email: [agmonahan@gmail.com](mailto:agmonahan@gmail.com).

Marci Beaudoin, Director of Faith Formation ministry



## MUSIC & MORE

HAPPY 2019!!!

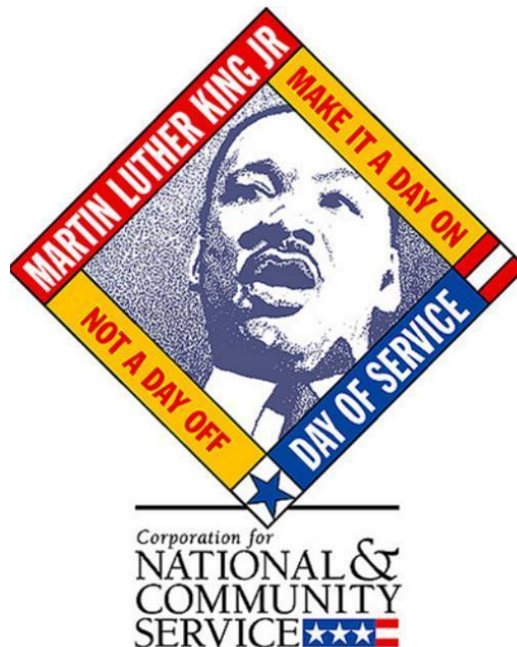
Thanks to everyone who made the music so special during the recent holiday season. Jill Khaleghi adds so much to many of our services, and it is also a treat to hear Michael Lewis play when he has a Sunday off from the Arizona Opera. Thanks as always to the many members of our Adult Choir, the singers and families of the Chalice Singers, and our talented Chalice Ringers, who helped ring in Christmas at the late Christmas Eve service. The Voices Lifted Singers sang at several assisted living places in December. And as always, the tech crew keeps things running smoothly and brings to life the audio and visual experience of worship. Thank you, one and all!

**Adult Choir** (7:30-9pm) and **Chalice Ringers** (6-7:15pm) start rehearsing again on TUESDAY January 8<sup>th</sup>, with the **Chalice Singers** (6:15-7pm) waiting until January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

I hope each and every one of you had safe, happy, and healthy holidays!

If you have been visiting VUU for a while and are interested in finding out more about membership and Unitarian Universalism, but missed the latest **JOURNEY TO MEMBERSHIP SESSION**, others are on Sundays February 3, May 5, or August 18. Just contact [office@vuu.org](mailto:office@vuu.org) to register for an upcoming session.

-Kellie Walker Hart, Minister of Music ([music@vuu.org](mailto:music@vuu.org))

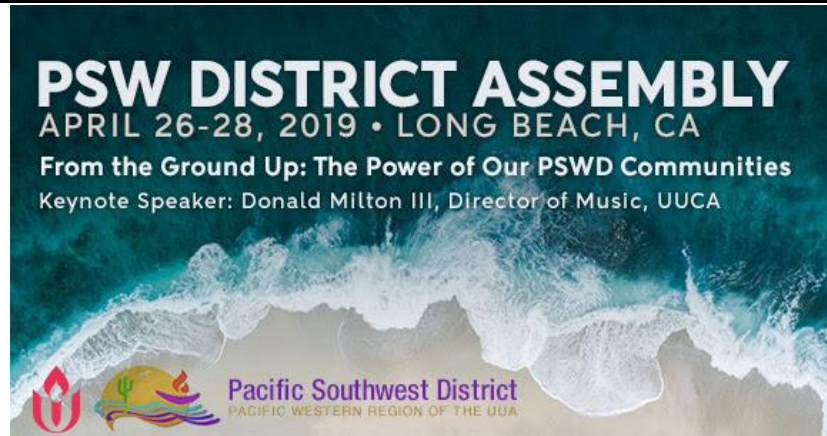


"Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."  
Martin Luther King Jr.

Photo: MLK Day Challenge to Techies, by Cambodia4kids.org Beth Kanter, July 25, 2005, (CC BY 2.0), <https://www.flickr.com/photos/cambodia4kidsorg/4286557370>

## *VUU COMMUNITY*

### **2019 Pacific Southwest District Assembly Registration Goes Live January 1**



The keynote speaker for the 2019 PSW District Assembly has been announced and he has a few simple questions for every member of every UU community:

Are you engaging your congregants on the deepest and most meaningful levels possible?

Are you impacting their lives through your worship services to the point that they want to go out into the highways and byways to spread compassion, grace and radical hospitality?

Are you ready to “upcycle” your community’s worship?

If so, then you need to attend the 2019 [Pacific Southwest District Assembly](#) April 26-28, 2019, at the UU Church of Long Beach, California.



Donald Milton III, director of music at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta, will lead the keynote presentation entitled “Upcycling Church Music for Deeper Engagement.” Together we will explore new ways of approaching hymns, music, readings, rituals and sermons to make them more meaningful, impactful and fully engaging.

Donald Milton III is the director of music at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta, the largest UU congregation in the Southeast. Milton runs one of the most eclectic and exceptional music programs in the UU movement. He wrote a chapter on upcycling church music for the recently released book, “Upcycle Your Congregation: Creative Ideas for Transforming Faith Communities.”

Registration for the 2019 PSW District Assembly will be available Jan. 1.

The district assembly’s theme will be “From the Ground Up: The Power of Our PSWD Communities.”

Along with Milton’s keynote presentation, there will be opportunities for worship, workshops, a youth con, social justice field trip and plenty of chances to connect with UUs from throughout Southern California, Arizona and Southern Nevada. Plan to be there: April 26-28 in Long Beach!

## **Special Funds Committee Meeting**

12-12-2018 "The Endowment Report"

The Special Funds committee is pleased to report the current combined balance of the endowment funds is \$408,492.

We are equally pleased to report how these funds are being put to use for special projects in our congregation and in our community. To date this year, we've approved two grants for special purposes to advance our congregation's mission:

- A grant of \$1,000 from the Bunny Clarke Leadership fund to pay for our Social Action chair to receive training in community organizing, through our partnership in the Valley Interfaith Project;
- A grant for up to \$10,000 to help defray the costs of the next Coming of Age program trip to Boston. This program is a fantastic opportunity for our high school youth that we offer every other year through our Faith Formation ministry.

Special Funds committee, through the use of endowment funds, is pleased be able to support these outstanding special programs to grow the impact of our congregation and our UU faith in the community and the broader world. Thanks to everyone who supports the endowment fund with contributions annually, or through bequests in your will or estate.

Together we are making a difference!



### **LIBRARY NOTES**

New book: Justice on Earth; People of Faith Working at the Intersection of Race, Class, and the Environment. Every year there is a book designated as a "Common Read" by the Unitarian Universalist Association. We have one copy in our library. It is located on the small bookcase to the left as you enter. Jayne Burgess will be leading a discussion group on the book beginning February 4<sup>th</sup>.

Johnnie Godfrey

### 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 January 2019 are:

10 to 19 Years:

*Joel & Melissa Sannes*

20 to 29 Years:

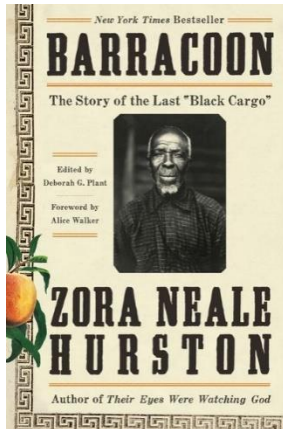
*Alice Casey  
Lynn DeMuth  
Kellie Walker*

50 to 59 Years:

*Ginny Sanstedt*

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

## A Special Adult Faith Formation Event



You are invited to attend a very special adult faith formation event at Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation. As part of our commemoration of Black History Month, we will explore the story of the late Cudjo Lewis, who was in the 1960s the last surviving American slave.

We will meet in the VUU sanctuary for four 90-minute sessions, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. on Wednesdays Feb. 13, 20, and 27, and at the same time on March 6th. In addition to studying the book "Barracoan: The Story of the Last 'Black Cargo'" by Zora Neale Hurston, we will use contemporary resources to reflect on how the pain of slavery is still affecting us today, and how some bright spots are appearing on the horizon.

These sessions are open to all VUU members and friends, and to the wider community. Please RSVP your attendance to [office@vuu.org](mailto:office@vuu.org) by February 6th and pick up a copy of "Barracoan." Hope to see you there!

With love and gratitude,  
Rev. Andy



### Opportunity to help Women4Women Tempe

We've partnered with Women4Women Tempe's to help provide bags containing feminine hygiene products to homeless and low-income women. They believe these items should be available to those who need them, regardless of their economic situation.

We'll gather together (women and men are both welcome) to assemble bags from 9am to 11am on Saturday February 9th in the Board and Conference rooms in the office building. There are several ways to help:

1. Come and help make the bags on the 9<sup>th</sup>
2. Donate items to fill the bags – feminine pads and tampons are especially needed
3. Donate money to purchase the above items.

Willa Cree or Lauree Perry will cheerfully accept your donations; either monies or products. More information will be available at tables in January.

Beverages and light snacks will be provided. This is a fun, low-key way to get to know each other, and do something helpful for our larger community.

For more info contact Lauree ([lperry98@earthlink.net](mailto:lperry98@earthlink.net))

*Cheers to a New Year and another chance to get it right.*

**Oprah Winfrey**

## OBITUARY FOR REV. DR. RAYMOND GEORGE MANKER

Rev. Ray was one of the founders of VUU



Rev. Dr. Raymond George Manker (Sr.) died peacefully December 16, 2018, in Phoenix, AZ, at the age of 93. He was born on April 6, 1925, in Santa Monica, CA. His father was Rev. Charles C. G. Manker who became minister of the Unitarian congregation in El Paso, TX, and his mother was Annie Marie Fehn. Raymond received his B.A. from Texas College of Mines & Metallurgy in 1945. He then studied for the Quaker ministry at the College of the Bible at Transylvania University in Lexington, KY, receiving a B.D. in 1948, and then was ordained and entered the Unitarian ministry. He received an honorary Doctorate of Sacred Theology (STD) from Starr King School of the Ministry in 1974.

He married Gretchen Brammer Loomis of Houston TX in 1949. His ministries were in Toledo OH (1949-50), Wayland MA (1950-1955), Riverside CA (1955-1963), and Phoenix AZ (1963-1990). He also served as Executive of the Pacific Southwest District of the Unitarian Universalist Association (1958-1963), during which time he was the founder of deBenneville Pines Conference Center in CA. Later in the 1970s, he also founded SAWUURA (Sierra Ancha Wilderness UU Religious Association), a wilderness retreat in AZ. In his long ministry, he defended targets of McCarthy era hysteria, counseled and advocated for youth, was very active in the civil rights movement including marching with MLK in Alabama and visiting with voting rights workers in Mississippi, advocated for peace and nonviolence, promoted feminism and attended international women's conferences, and promoted LGBT rights (including as an early officiant of same-sex weddings), was active in the sanctuary movement of the 1980s, and committed civil disobedience with Gretchen at the nuclear testing site in Nevada. He was a draft and abortion counselor, supported the United Farmworkers union and the ACLU, served on the Board of the UU Service Committee, was active in IARF, and much more. He was a humanist, a christian, and also attuned to nature spirituality.

He traveled the world extensively with Gretchen and family. Upon his retirement from active ministry in 1990, he was made Minister Emeritus of the UU Congregation of Phoenix AZ. He is preceded in death by his parents, brother Charles Manker Jr, sister Pauline Gay, and son Wendell. He is survived by his wife Gretchen, his children and their spouses Katherine (Bruce Gardner), Raymond Jr (Patti Atchley), Susan (Curtiss Seale), and David (Larry Purifory). He is also survived by four grandchildren Tiffany Brock, Nicholas Manker, Benjamin Manker-Seale, and Kat Choyguha, and three great-grandchildren, as well as nieces and nephews and cousins.

A Memorial Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, January 26, 2019, at 2:00 pm, at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix, 4027 East Lincoln Drive, Paradise Valley. Memorial donations may be made to the UU Congregation of Phoenix, or to the American Civil Liberties Union.

## VUU's Hospitality/Coffee Team



We welcome **Regina Colburn** as our new, fearless leader of the between Services Hospitality/Coffee/Snack Time! We also thank all the new and veteran volunteers who have stepped up to help. We are still looking for folks to help before the 9:15 a.m. service set-up time, serving after 9:15 a.m./before Faith Formation classes, serving after Faith Formation classes/before 11:30 a.m. See there is a place/time for everyone! We have a place for YOU! ***BIG Thank-You to Richard Anderson for being here EVERY***

***Sunday leading the table & chair set-up!***

To volunteer, please contact: Sue at [office@vuu.org](mailto:office@vuu.org) or Regina at [reginakcolburn@gmail.com](mailto:reginakcolburn@gmail.com)

## VUUSOCIAL ACTION MINISTRY

### Promoting Social, Economic and Environmental Justice

#### January Donation for Paz de Cristo: Canned Mixed Vegetables and Canned Corn

Please support our focus charity, Paz de Cristo, by bringing in a donation of canned mixed vegetables and canned corn. Tops with pull tabs are appreciated if possible. Drop your donation in the collection box located in the foyer of the sanctuary.



Gift cards for groceries and gas are welcome and will continue to be collected throughout the year. They can be placed in the lock box on the wall above the collection box. Fry's gift cards are especially appreciated because they give Paz the flexibility to get either gas or groceries. They use the gas for their delivery truck, or they buy fresh food and other groceries that they need.

#### Paz de Cristo needs YOU

Are you a UU looking for another way to help others who are less fortunate? Make a commitment to help feed the hungry at Paz de Cristo on a second Friday each month. Each month, VUU needs 20 volunteers to satisfy our long running commitment to this wonderful charity. [Please check here for availability and sign up](#) – we'd love to serve with you! Send questions to [pazdecristo@vuu.org](mailto:pazdecristo@vuu.org)

As we approach the end of 2018, we wanted to say thank you the 100+ VUUs (and friends) who dedicated so many of their Fridays to the Paz de Cristo effort! Additionally, special thanks to those who helped during the lean and hot summer months! Please read below to learn about of the origins of Paz. It's amazing how a dream and a little yellow house has bettered the lives of countless homeless and struggling families.

#### **Paz's Roots**

St. Timothy's newly hired social concerns director was tasked to coordinate various outreach projects the parish was involved in. Their goals were to Feed the Hungry, Give Drink to the Thirsty, Clothe the Naked, and Shelter the Homeless. The vision included a valley wide interfaith component to develop a central place of service both for those with needs AND for those with the need to serve.

#### **Where it Began:**

The little yellow, rented house at 559 S Country Club Dr opened July 1988 in Mesa. The first meal was served on September 15, 1988. Meals were prepared at the house, then transported - tables and all, to the parking lot of what was then the Tri-City Community Service Center building at Hibbert and Main Street. Some meals were also taken to the once LEGAL migrant workers in nearby citrus groves.

#### **How it Grew:**

Paz quickly outgrew its home on Country Club, and in 1993 a building site was secured. The land was purchased from the Railroad and the shells of the buildings were donated – a donation secured by former AZ Gov. Rose Mofford. Paz was the first organization needing to secure a special use permit for social service agencies in Mesa. The ground breaking of Paz's current location was on Oct. 2, 1993.

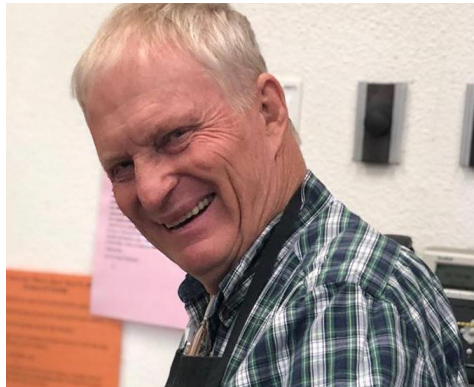
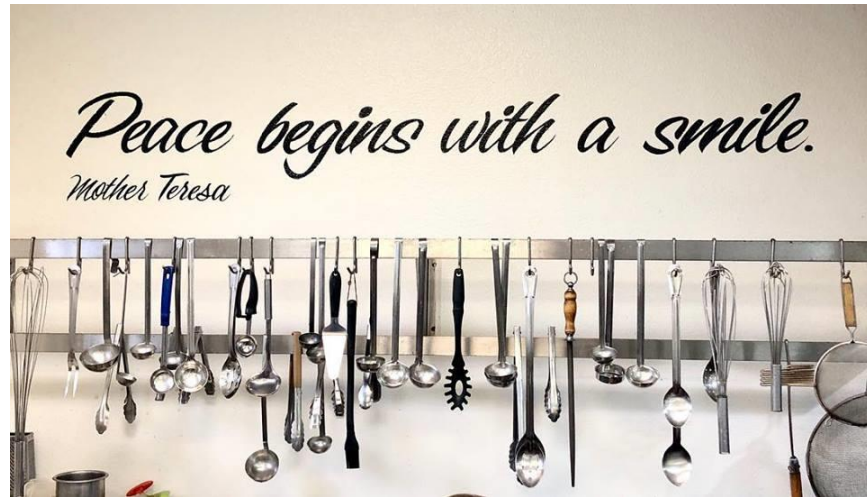
There's much more to the history of Paz, but clearly, it's **the hands of many** that makes this dream possible each and every night. So once again, thank you for your service! We do hope you consider renewing your pledge of time and energy by [signing up](#) for upcoming dates in 2019 - we'd love to serve with you again! **And we'd love to see YOU if you are new to Paz! It's a great place to serve!**

Peace and Gratitude

Andrew, Joanne & Pat – VUU's Paz Coordinators



## VUU Serves at Paz de Cristo:



### **Coming in January... VUU Citizens Climate Lobby Advocacy group**

Are you passionate about addressing climate change? Are you looking for a way to make a difference? If you are interested in being part of a solution, we want you to be a part of the conversation! Visit the VUU-CCL table on the patio in January to learn how you and your family can engage in doing the important work of climate advocacy. It is easy, fast and immensely important. **We will meet on Thursday, Jan. 17, 6:30p – 8:00p in Room 1.**



Will meet the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays after the 11:30 AM Service

**Arizona Legislative Alert – Keep Up with the latest Legislative News**

Want to keep up on what's happening to social justice legislation in Arizona? Sign up for your own copy of the Arizona Legislative Alert by emailing [legislativeadvocacy@vuu.org](mailto:legislativeadvocacy@vuu.org). The Arizona Legislative Alert is an e-mail newsletter covering social justice and public policy issues in Arizona edited by Anne Schneider.

**Thank you for Supporting the VUU Social Action Ministry**

If you have ideas, comments or questions about these or other Social Action projects, please contact Willa Cree, [socialaction@vuu.org](mailto:socialaction@vuu.org)

## EVENTS



**January 6**

First Sunday of each month *stop by "The Board Room", held at one of the round tables on the patio, for an informal chat with members of the VUU Board of Trustees. Your questions and comments are welcome!*

### **EastVUUs**



**Thursday, January 10 - 6PM**

Do you live way out in the east valley? We are building community of East-sider UUs and would love to have you join us for fellowship, food, faith discussions and social justice.

On January 10, we will meet at 6pm for a potluck dinner, followed by a great group discussion on how we grow in service to the wider community. We will be joined by DeeAnne McClenahan, VUU Board President. You are most welcome!

**SOCIAL JUSTICE:**

**Members wanting to participate, please bring food donations for Somos America to disperse to asylum seekers.**

ALL ITEMS \$0.99 at 99 Cent Store!!

Chicken or Tuna Salad in box with crackers , Applesauce or Fruit cups, Chewy Granola Bars, Raisins

**SOCIAL NIGHT: January 31** – TBA, plans still in the making for another enjoyable group night out!

Join us for our monthly potluck before our discussion. Please bring a dish to pass & your own service-ware.

Apache Wells Community Center,  
2215/2223 N. 56th St., Mesa, AZ 85215  
Follow the "Welcome UU" signs to the Community Building.

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE FOR FEBUARY IS JANUARY 20**



**VUU SINGLES EVENTS**

Not signed up to receive VUU Singles event emails? Contact Claudette by phone, text or call at 973-768-6047 or email, [claudettewassil@hotmail.com](mailto:claudettewassil@hotmail.com) and she'll get you on the list.



**Friday, January 4, 6:15 pm, Game Night at Bob and Raul's** (7392 S. Hazelton Lane, Tempe—near NE corner of Elliot and McClintock)

What could be more fun than a night of games? Dominoes, Apples to Apples, card games or anything your heart desires, just bring it along. We'll all bring substantial "snacks" to share and make a slow dinner out of them. Water, iced tea and coffee will be provided. Feel free to bring alternate drinks. We need to keep a count of how many are coming so we know if any extra tables and chairs are needed. RSVP by text, or call or email Claudette at [claudettewassil@hotmail.com](mailto:claudettewassil@hotmail.com), 973-768-6047, or Raul at [rblanco1001@gmail.com](mailto:rblanco1001@gmail.com), 561-901-9277. For last minute directions, contact Raul.

**Saturday, January 12 – 5:00 pm - Foreign Movie and Foreign Food to Match!** Renee's home — 4761 E. Pawnee Circle, Phoenix (Ahwatukee). Let's get together to enjoy a foreign movie and a dinner celebrating the film's cultural background together. This month the theme will be Spanish movie and cuisine. Text, call or email Claudette at [claudettewassil@hotmail.com](mailto:claudettewassil@hotmail.com), 973-768-6047 to RSVP and think about what kind of dish you'd like to bring to share.

**Friday, January 25, 6:30 pm, Singles Monthly Dinner Cafe Lalibella**  
849 W. University Drive, Tempe. This has become an annual tradition. Let's all go break bread together as we sop up Ethiopian food. Come share good conversation with friends and experience this unique cuisine. RSVP to Claudette by call or text 973-768-6047.



**WAYFARERS - Happy Hour Friday, January 18, 2019, 4:30**, Bella Gusto, 1964 N. Alma School Ste #1, Chandler, 480-696-4455  
Welcome in the New Year with \$5 bites of stuffed gnocchi rosemary cheese bread, and fried fresh mozzarella, or reasonably priced sandwiches, pasta or pizza. \$1 off all draft beer and cocktails, \$2 off bottled beer, and \$4 glasses of house red and white wine, all served in our own private room! And of course, great conversation! RSVPs have

been made in the name **VUU** so if you want to join us, please contact Susan Lacy at [lacynoe@yahoo.com](mailto:lacynoe@yahoo.com) (that's lacy no e!) by Wednesday, January 16. Wayfarers are 'travelers' who meet at a different location each month throughout the valley. Anyone is welcome to join us, just let me know. I try to make actual reservations for the number I've heard from so the restaurant will be waiting for us, and hopefully staffed appropriately! Hope to see you there! And stay tuned for upcoming Happy Hours!



**VUU WOMEN'S GROUP**

All women are welcome at our meetings. The purpose of our group is getting to know one another by talking about a variety of subjects. The first meeting of 2019 will be Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup> after the second service, approximately 12:30. We will gather at the front of the sanctuary after filling our plates in the kitchen. Please bring a dish to share. If you haven't brought a dish, stay anyway. We always have plenty of food.

The discussion topic will be announced at a later date, but we would like to ask two questions: Are you comfortable with the meeting time? Would you like to change the name of our group from "Women's Group" to something more exciting or descriptive? Let's talk about it.

Contacts: Margaret Stewart, [mjs.ontheroad@gmail.com](mailto:mjs.ontheroad@gmail.com) or Johnnie Godfrey, 480-231-8381 (accepts texts) [johnniegirl85218@gmail.com](mailto:johnniegirl85218@gmail.com).



# arizona foundation for contemporary theology

**On Sunday, January 6, 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM,** The Arizona Foundation for Contemporary Theology, Arizona Interfaith Power and Light, and the Shepherd of the Hills United Church of Christ are proud to present Dr. Mark Y. A. Davies and his presentation “[The Urgency of Now.](#)” Dr. Davies is the Wimberly Professor of Social and Ecological Ethics and Director of the World House Institute for Social and Ecological Responsibility at Oklahoma City University. To register use this link: [The Urgency of Now.](#) If financially able, a \$10 donation is suggested.

Dr. Davies progressive theological efforts focus on climate change and ecological ethics. His work has attracted the attention of fossil fuel executives in Oklahoma who have tried to remove him from his faculty position at Oklahoma City University.

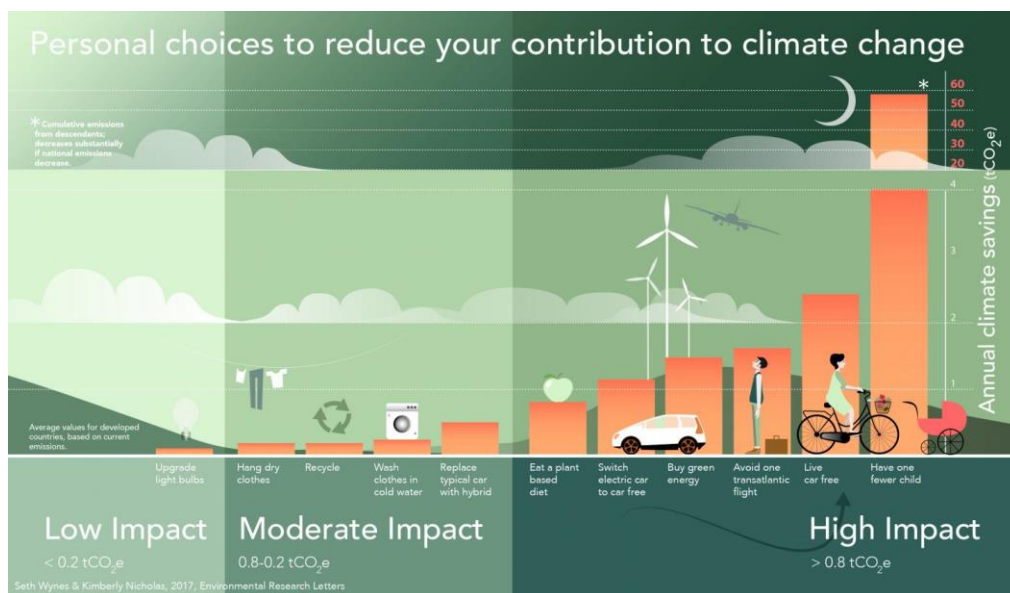
The following links provide additional information on Dr. Davies, which include his bio, blog, and a past sermon on climate change.

Mark’s OK City University Bio: <https://www.okcu.edu/directory/mark-davies>

One World House Blog: <https://oneworldhouse.net/> (check out his topics for speaking on the “speaking availability” page)

A sermon on Climate Change: <http://www.openarms.org/multimedia-archive/the-church-and-climate-change/>

All are welcome. A \$10 donation is suggested [The Urgency of Now](#) and can be offered through Event Brite or at the door to help cover the costs of this event. If you have any questions please contact Michael Powell, AzFCT Chairperson, at 602-330-6371.





## Caring & Concerns Neighborhood Contacts

We hope the coming year will be a wonderful one for all of the members and friends at VUU.

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 help.

Your Neighborhood Contacts are:

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

Carl Anderson	480-529-4365	canderaz@cox.net
Donna Bennett	480-570-4024	donnaben22@gmail.com

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
Sabena Norman	904-307-6996	sabena.norman@gmail.com

Mesa West - Zips: 85201, 85202, 85210

Mary Jo Bitner	480-831-5518	
Debbe Simpkins	480-244-6570	friendsofdebbe@gmail.com

Mesa East, including Apache Junction:

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

Joel Sannes	480-464-6772	joelsannes@gmail.com
Rebekah Thomas	443-890-5387	rkendri@hotmail.com

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

Neighborhood Contacts Needed!

Madeline Kasian	480-349-3080	maddie628@gmail.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
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\*\*\*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](mailto:caring@vuu.org). You can also request to be contacted by the minister, a Lay Pastoral Associate, and/or your Neighborhood Contact this way.



*VUUPOINT is published monthly by the Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation. VUUPOINT is distributed free of charge to members and friends of VUU. The newsletter can also be viewed online at the VUU website [www.vuu.org](http://www.vuu.org). Articles, announcements and other VUUPoint material may be emailed to: [office@vuu.org](mailto:office@vuu.org) \_Deadline for newsletter submissions is the 3rd Sunday of each month. If possible send submissions as an email attachment.*

#### *VUU STAFF*

The Reverend Doctor Andy Burnette, Senior Minister  
 The Reverend Kellie Walker Hart, Minister of Music  
 Marci Beaudoin, Director of Faith Formation  
 Hayley Wynne, Faith Formation Assistant  
 Sue Ringler, Congregation Administrator  
 Joe Martin, Maintenance Technician  
 Jill Khaleghi, pianist

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 Bob Fabre, Vice President & Board Rep. to Finance Committee  
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 Karl Hurst-Wicker, Secretary  
 Maria Dixon  
 Musette Steger  
 Mary Erickson

