



VUUPOINT December 2018



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 December theme is Peace

12/2 Let It Begin With Me: The Roots of Peace **The Rev. Dr. Andy Burnette**
 The Adult Choir will sing.

12/9 Something Good Happening: EB White's Thoughts on Peace **The Rev. Dr. Andy Burnette**
 The Worship Band with Radeem Zakari Robinson on piano will perform.

12/13 The Longest Night
 See Music & More for info on this special service.

12/16 The Cowardice of War and the Problems of Peace **The Rev. Dr. Andy Burnette**
 The Adult Choir and a small chamber orchestra will perform.

12/21 Solstice Service, 7PM w/ Lisa Bonine & other VUUers who embrace an earth-based spirituality

12/23 Pageant **There is only one Service at 10:30 AM on 12/23, Pageant Sunday**
 The Chalice Singers will provide music for the annual Holiday Pageant.

12/24 Christmas Eve **The Rev. Dr. Andy Burnette**

7 pm: This service is the Family service and will feature Children's Gifts of Music.

We encourage folks to bring cookies to share between the 2 services. There will be no snacks after the 2nd service.

9 pm: This service will be mainly for adults with carols and luminaria. It features the Adult Choir and the Chalice Ringers.

12/30 Honoring Bodhi Day **Led by Barbara Face**

Events at a Glance	
12/01 Living Scars Concert	12/11 Christmas Caroling Party
VUU Singles Game Night	
12/02 Spectrum Panel	12/13 EastVUU's Meet
FF Pageant Rehearsal	12/15 VUU Singles Holiday Potluck
Cakes for the Queen of Heaven	12/16 Spectrum Meets
12/04 UUJAZ Training Webinar	FF Pageant Rehearsal
12/06 S. Chandler Chalice Circle begins	Cakes for the Queen of Heaven
12/07 VUU Singles Game Night	7 th Principal & My Impact
12/09 A Call to Conscience	Newsletter Deadline
VUUJAZ Conversation	A Room with a VUU
A Room with a VUU	12/20 N.S.G, Book Club
FF Pageant Rehearsal	12/21 Solstice, Wayfarers Happy HoUUr
Sundays (except 12/23) – Dalai Lama & Friends; Owing Your Own Religious Past;	
Monthly Workshop Theme Discussions	
Tuesdays – Adult Choir, Chalice Singers & Chalice Ringers Rehearse	



“A Moment with the Minister”

In 1790, assembled in Philadelphia to birth a denomination, the American Universalists declared, “Although a defensive war may be considered lawful, yet we believe there is a time coming when the light and universal love of the gospel shall put an end to all wars.”

As this statement hints, unlike the Quaker and Mennonite traditions, Unitarian Universalism is not, strictly speaking, a peace tradition. We have always had in our membership committed pacifists who condemn all wars and those who believe defensive wars are justifiable. Some UUs serve, and carry weapons, in the military. Others, like some of our UU military chaplains, are conscientious objectors who serve without carrying weapons. Most don’t serve at all.

Peace, then, is a complicated topic for us. At least, it’s complicated until we peel it back to its core. Here’s what I mean. Unitarian Universalists believe, per our first principle, that every person is born with worth and dignity. We say in our seventh principle that we are part of an interdependent web of all existence. In our sixth principle, we declare that we will affirm and promote the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all. There may be room for discussion about when war is justified, but over the centuries we have made it clear that our ultimate goal is peace, a day “when the light and universal love of the gospel shall put an end to all wars.”

Gospel is a word that means ‘good news,’ and I figure we have some good news to share. We preach the gospel that every life is intertwined with every other, and that every single one of those lives is holy. We preach that working to understand people whose experience is different than ours is essential and joyous work. These are the foundations of peace.

Unitarian Julia Ward Howe’s establishment of the Mother’s Day for Peace illustrates our tradition’s commitment to a peace rooted in compassion. In her Mother’s Day Proclamation, she wrote, “Arise, then, Christian women of this day! Arise, all women who have hearts, whether your baptism be that of water or of tears! Say firmly: We will not have great questions decided by irrelevant agencies. Our husbands shall not come to us, reeking with carnage, for caresses and applause. Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn all that we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy and patience. We, women of one country, will be too tender of those of another country, to allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs. From the bosom of the devastated earth a voice goes up with our own. It says: Disarm, disarm! The sword of murder is not the balance of justice. Blood does not wipe out dishonor, nor violence vindicate possession. As men have often forsaken the plough and the anvil at the summons of war, let women now leave all that may be left of home for a great and earnest day of council.”

This powerful call is an example for all of us as we work for peace in our world. Howe knows that she can’t, at least in a direct sense, decide whether her country attacks another. But there are things over which she does have control. And she calls all women to follow her in exerting what influence they have to work for peace.

You and I also do not have deciding power when it comes to US involvement in foreign wars. But in our spheres of influence are children who are still figuring out how to move around in the world. We have the power to demonstrate love and compassion to them, and in so doing make war seem to them an absurd way to resolve a conflict. We have the power to sit down to a meal with people whose life experience does not mirror our own. We have the resources to work for peace.

So, in the words of the old hymn, let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me (and you!). Let our lives be shining examples of compassion and a gritty, committed love. And though we may not see it in our lifetimes, may we go about planting the seeds of that day when love and compassion will put an end to all wars.

With love,
Rev. Andy

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

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Dear friends,

I really enjoyed the month of November and our focus on gratitude. Each sermon, each discussion, and on into each week, I was able to reflect on how grateful I am for this space we have created at VUU. The physical space, for sure, but the energy and enthusiasm, and caring that fills it is what makes it so important and so special in and for our community.

There is gratitude also for the space we continue to create, [in alignment with our mission](#) -- more space to serve each other and the many new and curious people who come into our space each week. The two-services experiment has been a huge success. About 100 adults stay late or come early each Sunday for adult faith formation classes. Some classes have standing room only. And even though there were a few empty chairs before we went to two services, the magic of making room (more chairs, and different time options) has brought even more (about 300) each Sunday to our space. Having all ages with us for the hour we share in worship is one of the ways we are able to prioritize inter-generational experience, one of our strong values.

This was a month of progress on our capital campaign - our new committees (one for fundraising, one for planning/building) are well into their work, and we look forward to a live congregational update on February 10 at our mid-year meeting. In the meantime, watch for communications in the newsletter, bulletins, and a table outside where you can see visuals and ask questions. Did you catch the stakes and string around the new building? What a great way to start visualizing the future, where we can expand faith formation on Sundays to include everyone who wants to be there. [Click here for more information, which will continue to be updated.](#) We will build it, and they will continue to come.

Until then, let's keep building our new ways of being together, and practicing the radical hospitality that is becoming our way of being.

Peace,

DeeAnne McClenahan
deeannemcc@gmail.com
602.214.4608

Faith Formation Ministry December 2018

Valley UU's Annual Christmas Pageant: Dec. 23rd, 10:30 am in the sanctuary.

In addition to the usual characters, animals, and props; this year's pageant will include audience participation (don't worry – nothing too much!) AND a clothing drive! We will be donating our collected clothing to Tempe First United Methodist Church's Homeless Ministry. We know that the people they serve need new underwear and socks, warm clothes – long sleeved, hoodies, sweats, etc. 75% of the folks they serve are men, 25% women. You can learn more about this ministry here: <https://tempefirstumc.org/serve/homeless-ministries/> - you need to copy and paste this link.

Children & Youth- rehearsals: Sundays, Dec 2, 9, & 16 during Faith Formation hour (rooms 3 & 4)

Older youth & Adult helpers appreciated.

For more information contact Marci Beaudoin, DFF faithform@vuu.org

ADULT FAITH FORMATION OFFERINGS

See program descriptions below

Note: faith formation classes will not meet on Dec. 23rd but may meet on Easter, April 21st.

	<u>1st Sunday</u> 12/2, 1/6, 2/3, 3/3, 4/7	<u>2nd Sunday</u> 12/9, 1/13, 2/10, 3/10, 4/14	<u>3rd Sunday</u> 12/16, 1/20, 2/17, 3/17, **4/21	<u>4th Sunday</u> **12/30, 1/27, 2/24, 3/24, 4/28
Worship Theme discussions	sanctuary	sanctuary	sanctuary	sanctuary
Dalai Lama and Friends	room 1	room 1	room 1	room 1
VUUJAZ Conversations		board room		
Cakes for the Queen of Heaven (Nov 4 – April 7) *FULL	Board room		Board room	
Owning Your Religious Past (Oct 14 – Dec 16) *FULL	Conference room	Conference room	Conference room	Conference room
A Room with a VUU: Using Contemporary Latinx Art to Explore our Values Max 8 participants (Nov 11 – April 21) *FULL		Sanctuary library	Sanctuary library	
7th Principle and My Impact			Volunteer room	
VUU 101 – January 6, 13, 20	Conference room	Conference room	Conference room	

MONTHLY WORSHIP THEME DISCUSSIONS

Note: faith formation classes will not meet on Dec. 23rd Please plan to join us in the sanctuary for our annual Christmas Pageant.

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

Group meets every Sunday in the sanctuary.

Large group discussion around the monthly worship theme, see your Touchstones for theme notification. December's theme is Peace. 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

Note: faith formation classes will not meet on Dec. 23rd Please plan to join us in the sanctuary for our annual Christmas Pageant.

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 a.m., room 5: meditation

*10:30 - 11:20 a.m., 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

Every Sunday - child care is available at 8:30 a.m. in the room #6

7th Principle and My Impact, discussion group

Led by Jerry Waters

We will meet on the 3rd Sunday of each month in the board room.

Focusing on the 7th 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: **12/16, 1/20, 2/17, 3/17, 4/21**

VUUJAZ CONVERSATIONS

Facilitated by Anne Schneider

We will meet on the 2nd Sunday of each month in the board room. This month we'll meet on 12/9.

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.

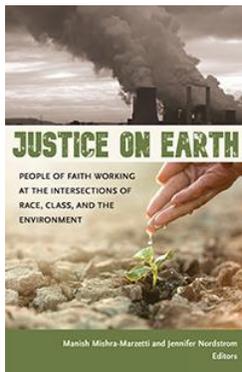
NEW ADULT FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM STARTS IN JANUARY:

VUU 101

Curious about how things work here at Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation? Join VUU's Leadership Development Committee (LDC) for an updated version of VUU 101.

Please save the dates between services January 6th, 13th and 20th.

Coming soon: The Joy of Service!!



The 2018-19 UUA Common Read (weeknight program)

Jayne Burgess will facilitate Monday evenings: Feb 4th, March 4th & April 1st, 7 p.m., 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>

Amazon (kindle version available) [click here](#)

The N.S.G. (Not So Great) Book Club (offsite, evening meeting)

We will meet on **December 20 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 2019. 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.

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

Spirit of Life discussion group – No December meeting

COMING IN JANUARY

Our Whole Lives for Young Adults

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.

Schedule: 14 sessions, most Sundays (1-3 p.m.) & 3 Saturdays (10a.m. – 12p.m.), Jan 27th – April 14th.

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 to sign up



Coming of Age 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.

Marci Beaudoin, Director of Faith Formation ministry



Messages on our November Gratitude Tree:

VUU, this congregation, Community, Music, For Sophie and Charlie, Long term care insurance, Family, serendipity, friends, VUU, Good friends and family, I am thankful for life, I am grateful for having family, My son, My life, my family, my friends, my education, my health, my freedom, my congregation The air in my lungs, the earth at my feet, death at the door, light in the sky, the swelling of my heart, whether joy or anguish, for how could I know one without the other? This body I inhabit and its power to birth, climb, to love and soar, the beings I have birthed, known, loved, cherished, disliked and the lessons they have taught me. The dharma, the sangha, Buddha, this breath, this moment. My love of learning, reading and poetry. The life I've led; homelessness, addiction, depression, abuse because I like who I am and my sorrows have shown me my great capacity to love and to learn and how I best serve my community. It's taught me about social justice issues. My children. Yoga. **And from our youth:** Family and friends, home, I am thankful for EARTH, My home, I am thankful for family, I am thankful for my family, I am thankful for my stuffed Cheetah, 2 leaves had drawings, no words

Thank you for our month of Gratitude

MUSIC & MORE

**Living Scars:
Songs of Trauma
and Healing**

a recital with CodyRay Caho and
Michael Lewis



Music and Lyrics by:

- James Agee
- Matthew Arnold
- Samuel Barber
- Benjamin Britten
- J. Fred Coots
- George & Ira Gershwin
- Julien Green
- Thom Gunn
- James Joyce
- Joseph Kosma
- Libby Larsen
- Michael Lewis
- Sam Lewis
- Johnny Mercer
- Mary Oliver
- Jacques Prevert
- Ned Rorem
- William Shakespeare
- Judith G Wolf

Valley Unitarian Universalist Sanctuary
6400 Del Rio St. Chandler, AZ 85226

Saturday, December 1, 2018 | 7:30 PM

LIVING SCARS: Songs of Trauma & Healing: VUU's occasional guest pianist **Michael Lewis** and his partner **CodyRay Caho** are presenting this concert in the VUU sanctuary on Saturday evening, **December 1 at 7:30 p.m.** The concert is free, although we will be taking up an offering to help seed money for some more future concerts. A special event not to be missed!

Also, Michael and Cody will be choosing some music from this concert to anchor our annual **LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE** this year. This is a quiet, meditative service that can be helpful for those who struggle around the holidays, and who may find the often overly-cheery, consumerist and stressful activities of the season to be a disconnect with their personal experience. This year will be somewhat different, with the main portion of the service centered on musical selections from Michael and Cody's theme around trauma and healing. As such, it should be a meaningful service for any of us

who would like to experience some beauty and thoughtfulness in this hectic season. **Thursday evening Dec. 13th at 7 p.m.** in the VUU sanctuary.

Our annual **CHRISTMAS CAROLING PARTY** will be Tuesday, December 11th from 6 to 6:45 p.m. All are invited -please meet in the VUU sanctuary at 6, then we will carol through the neighborhood. Wear a Santa Hat or bring some jingle bells and bring a Holiday treat to share for afterward. Sponsored by the Chalice Singers, VUU's Children's Choir.

Upcoming **CHOIR MUSIC:** On December 16th the Adult Choir will be singing *For Unto Us a Child is Born* from Handel's *Messiah*, with a small orchestra in the Sunday morning services. Both the Adult Choir and the Chalice Ringers will also be featured at the 9 p.m. Christmas Eve Service.

Wanted: Children and Youth to share their **GIFTS of MUSIC** at the 7p.m. Christmas Eve service -please contact Marci Beaudoin faithform@vuu.org or myself at music@vuu.org if your child has a prepared holiday presentation ready.

-Kellie Walker Hart, Minister of Music (music@vuu.org)

Journey to Membership Sessions 2019

Upcoming Sessions (Pick One):

- **Sunday February 3, 2019**
 - 1:00 p.m. until 4:30 p.m., VUU Sanctuary
- **Sunday May 5, 2019**
 - Noon until 3:30 p.m., VUU Sanctuary
- **Sunday August 18, 2019**
 - Noon until 3:30 p.m., Rooms 1 & 2, Faith Formation Building

Led by Rev. Dr. Andy Burnette and Rev. Kellie Walker Hart



If you have been attending Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation (VUU), and are interested in membership, learning more about Unitarian Universalism, VUU, and meeting other newcomers, this is for you!

Contact Rev. Kellie Walker Hart at music@vuu.org or the VUU office at office@vuu.org to register. Lunch provided and babysitting is available if requested in advance.

Please sign up for just ONE session, and if you decide to join, there will be an opportunity to do so by signing the Membership Book at the end of the session. A recognition ceremony will take place during the worship service a week or two after the session.

Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation
6400 W Del Rio St, Chandler, AZ 85226, 480-899-4249, www.vuu.org

If peace is really what you want, then you choose peace.

-Eckhart Tolle-

VUU COMMUNITY

VUU's *FUUND* Together



FUUND Ugly Sweater Party

'Tis the season for making merry, & VUU's *FUUND* Together Auction is back for its 5th year!

FUUND* Together** is VUU's largest annual fundraiser. Each year between November and early January, ***FUUND loving members of our congregation sign up to host events, give lessons, and provide services that can be purchased by VUU members and friends at a silent auction held Sunday mornings during February.

Last year's auction offered casual and gourmet dinners, luncheons, pool parties, movie nights, hikes, bird watching, rock painting, jewelry making, card playing, museum visits, bike tours, weekend getaways, history discussions, swimming lessons, custom knit accessories, dog sitting, made-to-order quiche, family photography, and many other very special services and activities.

Please visit us at the ***FUUND* Together** table after the services. Our ***FUUND*** loving team will happily share pictures of past ***FUUND*** events, let you browse past ***FUUND*** catalogs, listen to your ideas, and even help you come up with an idea. And, you can schedule your event to take place any time between April 2019 and March 2020.

Questions? We have answers. Email us at fuundtogether@vuu.org.

VUU's *FUUND* Together Auction is back for its 5th year! For those of you who are new to this tradition, ***FUUND* Together** is VUU's largest annual fundraiser. Each year between November and early January, ***FUUND*** loving members of our congregation sign up to host events, give lessons, and provide services that can be purchased by VUU members and friends at a silent auction held Sunday mornings during February.

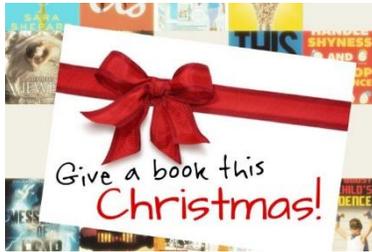
This year we are hoping to double the ***FUUND*** by welcoming back all of our former ***FUUND*** lovers **and** encouraging everyone who hasn't yet donated or attended an event to join in the ***FUUND***! To find out how you can participate, visit us on Sunday mornings at the ***FUUND*** table or email us at fuundtogether@vuu.org.

Remember, life is only as *FUUND* as you make it!



THIS COULD BE YOU HAVING **FUUNd!**

Share your time and talents with VUU by donating a party, dinner, lesson(s), or service to the **2019 FUUNd Together** Auction. Visit us on Sunday mornings at the **FUUNd** table or email us at fuundtogether@vuu.org.



SUPPORT VUU'S LIBRARY WHILE SHOPPING FOR THE HOLIDAYS

ONCE AGAIN ANNE SCHNEIDER HAS DONATED COPIES OF HER BOOKS OF POETRY AND NATURE PHOTOGRAPHS. THEY ARE DISPLAYED IN THE LIBRARY. ALL MONEY GOES TOWARD BUYING BOOKS FOR OUR LIBRARY.

Contact: Johnnie Godfrey, johnniegirl85218@gmail.com or cell: 480-231-8381.

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 2018 are:

10 to 19 Years:

Tom and Margareta Briggs
Mike McBeath

30 to 39 Years:

Rey Bergelin
June Dykstra
Rebecca Riggs

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

VUU SOCIAL ACTION MINISTRY for more info contact Willa at socialaction@vuu.org
Promoting Social, Economic and Environmental Justice

December Donation for Paz de Cristo

The December donation of the month is a contribution check to Paz de Cristo, our focus charity. Your donation qualifies you for an Arizona tax credit, which reduces your state income taxes by the entire amount contributed. The annual maximum is \$400 (Individual Taxpayers) or \$800 (Married Filing Jointly). The deadline for contributions is **April 15, 2019**. For more information visit the Arizona website www.azdor.gov or Paz de Cristo's www.pazdecristo.org



In addition, VUU is continuing to collect gas and grocery gift cards for Paz, which helps them maximize their buying power. Fry's are especially appreciated because they can go toward gas or groceries. Gift cards can be placed in the lock box in the foyer. Thanks for your generosity! You make a difference!

Coming in January.... VUU Climate 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.

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 in January, February, etc. 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

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. The Arizona Legislative Alert is an e-mail newsletter covering social justice and public policy issues in Arizona edited by Anne Schneider.

Join UJAZ for a Justice Strength Training Webinar:

December 4th, 6:30-7:30 p.m. on Zoom

Carbon Fee & Dividend Policy, One Solution to Reduce Carbon Pollution

Presented by Sandy Whitley, Co-State Coordinator for Citizens' Climate Lobby

*Are you passionate about addressing climate change? Are you worried about the IPCC climate change report released 10-8-2018? Are you looking for a way to make a difference? If you are interested in being part of a solution, Citizens' Climate Lobby wants **you** to be a part of the conversation!*

The webinar is free, but advance registration at uujaz.org is required!



I-HELP (Interfaith Homeless Emergency Lodging Program)

Through our work with the Chandler I-HELP program, VUU provides dinner and overnight shelter for 20 - 25 individuals three - four Monday nights a month. I-HELP questions? Contact Sue office@vuu.org VUU will prepare and serve the meal at I-HELP on **Monday, Dec. 10**. Watch for the link to sign-up to bring food & drinks and/or serve in next week's Happenings email blast!

VUU's Hospitality/Coffee Team



We welcome **Regina Colburn** as our new, fearless leader of the after and 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 or Regina at reginakcolburn@gmail.com

Thursday Night Chalice Circle Starting in December:

Worried you missed the opportunity to sign up for Chalice Circles? Never fear - we have a Chalice Circle beginning Thursday, December 6. Chalice Circles are a small group ministry within VUU. These twice monthly gatherings of 6 to 8 people feature deep listening and allow for quiet reflection on vital issues of faith and life. Sessions are guided by trained facilitators, last 90 minutes, and are most often held in members' homes. This Thursday night Chalice Circle will be on the first and third Thursdays of the month from 7-8:30pm, near Lindsay and Riggs. Sign up is available at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0d49adab22a64-chalice1>. If you would like to learn more, visit the VUU Webpage at <http://www.vuu.org/chalice-circles/> or e-mail ChaliceCircles@vuu.org.



Click to make your 2019 giving commitment.

Christmas Shopping on Amazon!

CLICK ON LINK BELOW TO SUPPORT VUU WHEN YOU USE AMAZON!





BROWN BAG LUNCH WITH REV. ANDY

On the first Wednesday of each month, join Rev. Andy in the Office Board Room for lunch and a chat. Dec. 5 @ noon would be a great time to bring your lunch and find out more about VUU.

EVENTS



December 2

First Sunday of each month, stop by "The Board Room", held on the patio after this Sunday's 9:15 a.m. Service, for an informal chat with members of the VUU Board of Trustees. Your questions and comments are welcome!



Will meet the 1st and 3rd Sundays after the 11:30 AM Service

On Sunday, December 2, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. in the VUU Sanctuary.

Plan on sticking around after our 2nd Service. A light lunch will be provided.

SPECTRUM, LGBTQ+VUU will present a two-person panel on transgender identity. Presenters include Dr. Veenod Chulani and Dr. Mischa Peck.

Veenod Chulani, MD, MSED, FSAHM, CEDS, leads Phoenix Children's Adolescent Medicine Program, and is one of only a handful of specialists in Arizona. Dr. Chulani also specializes in working with gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) youth, including those seeking cross gender hormonal therapies. Dr. Chulani is Section Chief of Adolescent Medicine at Phoenix Children's Hospital.

Dr. Mischa Peck, a transgender woman, is a counselor and therapist. She writes, "As you can imagine, my personal journey has taught me much about resilience—just think about the many life changes in this process. For more than 40 years, I lived my life as a male-identified. I experienced life and studied academically much about men and masculinity—including trying and trying and trying to figure out where I fit. Through this path, I found myself: I am Mischa."

Please plan to attend this important panel presentation and bring your questions!

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE FOR JANUARY IS DECEMBER 16



NefeshSoul Chanukah Celebration

Friday, December 7, 2018 @ 6:15 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. in the VUU Sanctuary
Come celebrate Chanukah with us!! We'll light up the room, sing Chanukah songs, celebrate Shabbat, and read Torah. Bring your own menorah and candles to light together!

Service at 6:15 with potluck dinner immediately after. (Potluck signup here): <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0a4caaad2da3f94-chanukah>



Thursday, December 13 – 6 p.m.

Do you live way out in the east valley? If so, your VUU neighbors would love to have your company at our next EastVUU gathering on Dec 13 We get together for friendship, food, faith development and social justice."

DISCUSSION: Rev Dr Andy Burnette will join us on Dec 13, 6p.m., for a potluck and discussion about how we can nurture our UU Community East side.

SOCIAL ACTION: Members wanting to participate, please bring food donation to Somos America for 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
Immigration Issue Update.

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.



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 and she'll get you on the list.



Saturday, December 1st, 5:30 p.m. - ZooLights

ZooLights is a magical event that will illuminate your holiday season. The nightly evening viewings feature millions of lights, hundreds of sparkling displays throughout the zoo and more activities and performances. We'll leave from the Starbucks on Elliot and Priest at 5:30 pm and carpool to the Zoo for ZooLights. Everyone is on their own to purchase tickets at the Zoo entrance. You will need "anytime" tickets since we are going on a Saturday. It's about a 30-minute drive to the zoo and it is suggested it usually takes about 2 hours to experience all the lights. Bring good walking shoes and wear extra layers as it'll get cold walking around; and money for hot chocolate or apple cider. For those interested we will stop for dinner on the way back, so eat a late lunch to get you through. If you are interested in attending, text or call Claudette at 973-768-6047

Friday, December 7th – 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, Scrabble, card games or anything your heart desires, just bring it along. We'll all bring a substantial "snack" or appetizer to share and make a "dinner" out of them. Water, iced tea and coffee will be provided. Feel free to bring alternate drinks. Let us know if you are coming so we how many are coming and if any extra tables and chairs are needed. Text, call or email Claudette claudettewassil@hotmail.com, 973-768-6047 to RSVP. For last minute directions, contact Raul at 561-901-9277.

Saturday, December 15th – VUU Singles Annual Holiday Potluck Party and Gift Exchange at Renee’s home. 4761 E. Pawnee Circle, Phoenix (Ahwatukee) Bring a dish to share and a gift for a Yankee Swap (Value approximately \$15) This will replace our monthly dinner out. RSVP to Claudette by email: claudettewassil@hotmail.com by call or text 973-768-6047

VUU WOMEN’S GROUP



THERE WILL BE NO MEETING IN DECEMBER.

**Contacts: Margaret Stewart mjs.ontheroad@gmail.com,
Johnnie Godfrey johnniegirl85218@gmail.com, cell: 480-231-8381.**



Wayfarers: Happy Hour Friday, December 21, 4:30, Thirsty Lion, 2000 E. Rio Salado Pkwy, Tempe 480-968-2920.

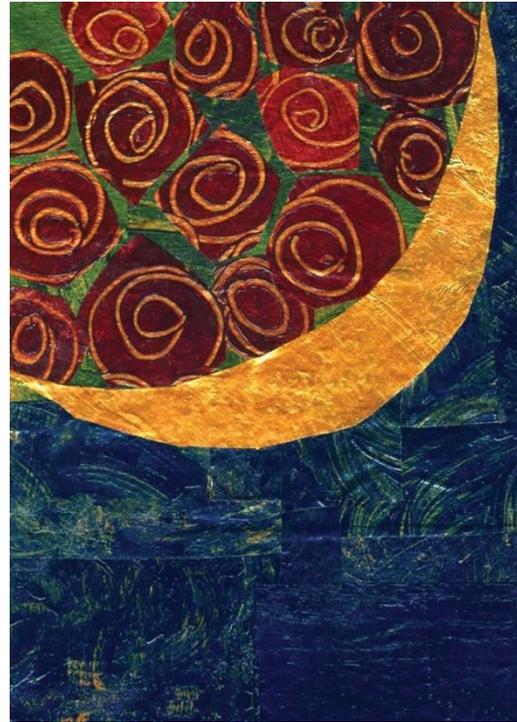
Come join us for discounted appetizers of Caesar Salad, Edamame, Pulled Pork Sliders, crab & seafood cakes, calamari, chicken tenderloins, etc., and \$4 featured wines and pints, and house margaritas, and best of all, CONVERSATION! RSVPs have been made in the name VUU so if you want to come, please contact Susan Lacy at lacynoe@yahoo.com (that's lacy no e!) 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!

On December 21st @ 7 p.m. VUU will host a **Solstice Service**. The service comes out of earth-based religion and is organized by VUU member Lisa Bonine and VUU members who embrace an earth-based spirituality.

Lisa writes, "I have earned the rank of Amtrad Third Degree High Priestess and have tried my best to listen for the voice of the Goddess and the God and to follow their guidance as I walk through life. I feel the Goddess has called me to concentrate on community outreach, interfaith work and education. I have written and presented classes, written, facilitated and participated in public rituals and performed weddings. I am registered clergy with the Covenant of the Goddess, one of the largest and oldest Wiccan religious organizations."

You won't want to miss this service that is sure to become an annual solstice tradition! Please do bring a canvas chair and dress warm, since the service will be outdoors.



Be a part of something bigger than yourself

Share a delicious moment

Streets of New York would like to thank you for giving blood with a voucher for a free 10" cheese pizza.

Must present voucher. Not valid with any other offer. One voucher per party per visit. Good for dine-in only. Voucher valid between Dec. 1 and Jan. 31.



streetsofnewyork.com

For more information or to schedule a donation, call 877-25-VITAL or visit us at vitalant.org. Find us @vitalant:   

Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation Holiday

Blood Drive

Sun., Dec. 16, 2018

8:30 am ~ 1:30 pm

Bloodmobile in Parking Lot -
6400 West Del Rio St. Chandler, AZ 85226

To schedule an appointment contact
Sue Ringler, office@vuu.org, 480-899-4249



Give the gift of life this holiday season! Here is the link [Click Here](#) you can use to set up your appointment for our Dec. 16th Blood Drive



Sponsored by our neighbors and renters, The SEMA Foundation

325 North Austin Drive #4, Chandler AZ 85226

SEMA Foundation in Chandler is delighted to invite you to a Turkish Bazaar on December 1st at 10 AM.

Authentic Turkish Cuisine

Live Music and Entertainment

Folk Dancing Performances

Turkish Arts and Crafts

Kids' Games

Cultural Activities

and much more,

Join us!

SEMA Foundation rents space in VUU's school classrooms on Saturday mornings for their children's programming. We are also both members of Tempe Interfaith Fellowship. This is a great group that works to build-bridges between different groups upholding and celebrating the dignity of all.

ISLAMIC COMMUNITY CENTER OF TEMPE
131 E. 6TH STREET
TEMPE, AZ 8528

OPEN HOUSE

**The theme of the night is "The Qu'ran"
Please come and enjoy a
free dinner and discussion**

VISIT US ON DECEMBER 15TH AT 6 PM

No babysitting is provided but children are
welcome to attend





The National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day

Friday, December 21, 2018

- The shortest day of the year but the LONGEST NIGHT

We remember and name all who have died on our streets this past year.

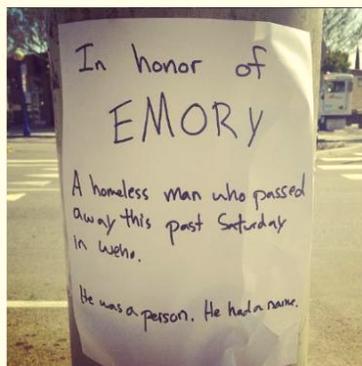
Our Service of Remembrance will be on

Dec. 21 at 5:30 PM

**at University Presbyterian Church, 139 E Alameda Dr,
Tempe 85282**

After our Service everyone is invited to share
a meal and memories together at the church.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lcDdTDhZnmw>





Caring & 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	480-529-4365	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

Betty Barnes	480-962-1526	bettyjbarnes@cox.net
Joel Sannes	480-464-6772	joelsannes@gmail.com
Rebekah Thomas	443-890-5387	rkendri@hotmail.com
Diana Woods	480-835-5621	dianawoods@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

Chandler

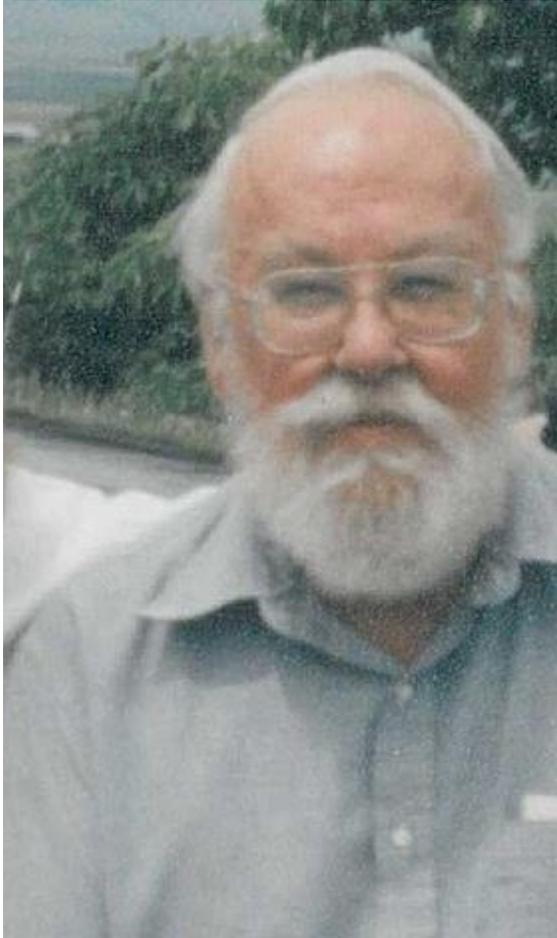
North - Zips: 85224, 85226
 South, including Sun Lakes, Queen Creek, Casa Grande
 Zips: 85122, 85222, 85225, 85123, 85131, 85138, 85139, 85142, 85143, 85239, 85242, 85243, 85244, 85246, 85248, 85249, 85286

Barbara Face	480-961-3223	barbara_face@qwest.net
Jacqui Meriweather	480-491-0546	jacquelinea.meriwether@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.

December 19, 1929 - July 31, 2018



George Lewis Cowgill, 88, died in Tempe, Ariz., on July 31, 2018. He was a native of Grangeville, Idaho, who became a distinguished professor of anthropology, specializing in the ancient civilization of Teotihuacan in central Mexico. He was a long-time member of VUU.

George and his twin brother, Warren Crawford Cowgill, were born to George Dewey Cowgill and Ruby (Smith) Cowgill on December 19, 1929, just outside Grangeville in a farmhouse that stood on the site where the Bear Den now stands. The twins attended the one-room Adkison School for a year before going to school in town. They graduated from Grangeville High School in 1948; one of their favorite teachers was Grace Jordan, who later wrote "Home Below Hell's Canyon."

With little inclination for farm work, the Cowgill twins enrolled in the University of Idaho. After one year, they transferred to Stanford University in Palo Alto, California. George graduated in 1952 with a bachelor's degree in physics; he eventually got a doctorate in anthropology from Harvard University in 1963.

George was a professor of anthropology at Brandeis University in Waltham, Mass., between 1962 and 1990. He devoted most of his research effort to mapping the city of Teotihuacan and analyzing archaeological artifacts, such as pot sherds, found there. He also made important contributions to the application of statistics to archaeological research, and to the comparative study of ancient cities.

In 1990, Arizona State University recruited him to its faculty, and he gladly left the Boston metropolitan area to return to his roots in the west. He flourished at ASU and continued to work with graduate students and do research in Teotihuacan well after his retirement in 2005. As long as his health permitted, George made at least yearly visits home to Grangeville.

The American Anthropological Association awarded him the Alfred Vincent Kidder Award for Eminence in the Field of American Archaeology in 2004. In 2015, he published *Ancient Teotihuacan: Early Urbanism in Central Mexico*. George L. Cowgill is survived by his niece, Karen, of Seattle.

A memorial service on his birthday, December 19th at 2:30 will be held at the University Club at ASU. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Arizona State University Teotihuacan Archaeological Research Center Endowment.



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. Articles, announcements and other VUUPoint material may be emailed to: 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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