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**Summary of Sunday Services**

**10:30 AM**

**February 4: The Embodied Energy of our UU Principles**

Rev Maggie Yenoki, Jeanne Coats, & Kathleen Jacobson

Our 7 UU Principles declare the truth and meaning of our core beliefs as Unitarian Universalists. The energies that stir our faith within us call us to action as we live out the urgency of each principle in our vibrant life experiences. Come explore how we can enliven the meaning and purpose of our liberal faith as we pair the 7 principles with the 7 chakra (circle) energies that inherently move within our bodies.

**February 11: The Spiritual Practice Of Love (Agapē)**

Rev. Susan Manker

Agapē is a Greek word meaning "brotherly (or sisterly) love." It became a Christian practice, passed down through the centuries, which we embody today when we speak of "beloved community." It is a practice that takes practice, and is not meant to be easy. We'll explore what's involved in a spiritual practice of love. Val Pals (Valentine Pals) will be celebrated after the service today, as well as the party for Judy Bixel who is retiring after many years as our bookkeeper.

**February 18: Evolution Sunday: All About Change (Part I)**

Rev. Susan Manker

Change is hard in many different contexts. It is hard for some people in our world to accept that evolution can coexist with a belief in Divine energies. It is also hard for some people to accept that change is inherent in life itself. We struggle with change in its many, many forms. Let's take a look at the changes in this world we love, as well as in our beloved religious community.

**February 25: Stewardship Sunday: All About Change (Part II)**

Rev. Susan Manker

It takes more than change—pocket change, that is—to support a religious community. We all struggle with the questions of how much can we give, how much is appropriate, and how much can we promise and still keep that promise? If we could, we'd promise the moon, so...why not? How can we increase our generosity of stewardship? And what does love have to do with it?

## Rev. Susan's Message



I'm writing this on February 14. Happy Valentine's Day. I know it's late for a newsletter column, but the newsletter often falls behind when I am focusing on other areas of need in the congregation (of which we have had a lot lately). One of those was to reschedule the earlier plans for the Stewardship Drive. The new dates are in Rita's column, and note that we separated out the dinner and put it with the auction on April 14.

We hope for a low-energy stewardship (or pledge) drive, so please make this very important decision of financial commitment in a timely and easy way. We are kicking off the Stewardship Drive on Sunday, February 25, with a sermon on Change (a double entendre).

As to the strife that has been erupting within certain circles in the congregation, I and the board are doing our best to consider and respond to the issues. We are holding the "open mike" part of joys and sorrows after the services now, as we had originally planned, but the loss of insurance threw a wrench into the smooth transitions we had envisioned. We ask that you give these new ways of sharing joys and sorrows a chance.

We have also been discussing how to keep a cohesiveness to worship, even as we "share the plate" with organizations we care about. A congregation-wide social action focus was requested in the visioning you did in the 2015 workshop, so the mandate and invitation are there. We have started talking about monthly social justice Sundays. You actually do a lot of social action and maybe listing it will help some of you to recognize how much you already do:

- Weekly Beta Center (food bank plus) support in the Sunday services
- Weekly Fair Trade Support and Sales after services
- Monthly Share the Plate in the Sunday service to support local organizations
- Monthly community meals prepared in our kitchen and served off-campus
- Bi-monthly (every two months) Worship services (UU United Nations Office, UU Service Committee Guest at Your Table, Martin Luther King, Jr., Sunday, UUSC Membership Sunday, Calapayan Sunday...)
- Partner Church Participation - Calapayan in the Philippines - fill boxes and send money
- Yearly book readings on social justice issues (last year we did at least two)
- Speakers from various organizations
- Participation in local issues, refugee work, Women's marches, Christmas gift purchases
- And, of course, you are already a Welcoming Congregation

Mostly these go well, and sometimes communications can be improved. But this congregation does a lot, and you have correctly named your committee the Social Justice Coordinating Committee to help coordinate your different interests. If you want something to happen, please let the committee and me know by sharing your ideas as well as your energy.

Change is hard, harder for some than others. Let’s respond with an open heart as we continue through these transitions, and create a loving environment with our words as well as our actions. This is an example of social justice for each other as well as good stewardship.

Love,  
Rev. Susan

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### Intern’s Inklings Think Free!

It seems to me that choosing our worship theme for February was a slam-dunk. A cinch. Easy-peasy. It may be that our choice to focus on Love during the month that holds Valentine’s Day at its center is a ‘no-brainer’ for you as well. The rubber will hit the road when we embrace our call and our challenge, take this theme, and use it as a can-opener to our deeper places.

Love might seem like a pretty lightweight theme, but actually... it requires a lot of courage to consider how we turn from it (run from it?) so often in our lives.

All beings want to be loved in ways that ground us and center us in the web of life that represents our sense of belonging and source of purpose. In his book ‘Theology Ablaze’ our teacher and friend Rev. Tom Owen-Towle calls love ‘life’s central vow’ as he writes about our UU faith as more about our behavior than belief. Do we only believe in love, or do we behave as love? One is easy-peasy, one is our calling.

We are called to be love and share love and make love and give love and bear love and seek love and then to love more... Let’s dig into this theme with all our might, and we just might discover a love we never knew possible was in us all along. I think that’s pretty much a slam-dunk.

With heart,  
Rev. Maggie Yenoki, Intern Minister

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### SPIRIT LEVEL GRANT

Call for **MVUUC SHINING STARS** - The Matching Grant for Ministerial Search started Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. We now have \$ 7,193 from our MVUUC Shining Stars!! We are on our way to the \$10,000 goal. Please be sure to mark any contributions for the SPIRIT LEVEL GRANT (SLG). Contributions can be put with the Sunday offering, in the Pledge mail box by the office door, mailed to MVUUC or by the MVUUC website at Stewardship. Remember WHAT YOU GIVE IS WORTH 2X TO MVUUC. Questions contact Sandra Grajeda, [sgrajeda@earthlink.net](mailto:sgrajeda@earthlink.net)

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## President's Message

Dear Beloved, BeUUtiful Community,

We have been through a lot in the last few months. It's been a bit stormy, but as I said in my opening words for the Mid-Year Budget Review and Town Hall, this congregation has been here a long, long time. I know we can weather the storms and come out on the other side. To paraphrase Jimmy Dean, "We can't change the direction of the wind but we can adjust our sails so we reach our destination."

The Board has been working very hard to take care of everything during this time of transition while being in transition itself. Usually there are two new Board members each year and possibly a new treasurer. This year we have four new Board members: Joseph Greene, Nick Von Glahn, Dave Darrow, and Cynthia Humes. We have had not 1, but 2, new treasurers, first Barbara Dev who had to resign, and now Sandy Grajeda. We just found out we will be appointing another new Board member to replace Cynthia Humes who is facing some health challenges. Despite all this change, the Board is working well and the newer Board members are getting caught up on all they need to know about the business of the church. Please remember Board members are volunteers. We can't give them a raise but we can raise their spirits with expressions of gratitude.

We are indeed sailing towards our destination. Our ministerial search is on track thanks to our wonderful, dedicated Ministerial Search Committee; the issue with our insurance has been resolved; and we are trying out new things in our worship services, and will soon be calling a new minister. To really move forward we need to put some wind in our sails. That's where you come in. Our pledge drive starts soon. The money you give to the congregation is the energy that will get us to where we want to go. Please be generous! Fill our sails!

It's a pleasant journey to be in a sailboat with wonderful people! Let's enjoy being together in this boat, grateful for the wind, the water and the sun—and each other remembering we are 'Many Beliefs, One Community'.

In service,  
*Rita Salama*

P.S. As always, you are invited to ask questions, make suggestions, or express concerns. Please contact me or one of the other members of the Board of Trustees (Maribel Dana, Joseph Greene, Dave Darrow, Nick Von Glahn, and Sandy Grajeda)

Board meetings are usually held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month; they are open meetings and visitors are welcome to attend. If you wish to speak to an issue, please contact the Board President at least one week in advance to be placed on the agenda.

### Important Dates

- February 11 - Val Pals
- February 25 - Kick-Off of Stewardship Drive

- March 10, 5:30 pm - Fiesta Fundraiser for Camp Scholarships (rescheduled from 1/27)
- March 18 - End of Pledge Drive
- April 14 - Annual Dinner and Auction
- Tentative - April 22--Preliminary Budget Review
- April 29 - May 6, May 6 - 13, or May 13 - 20 --Candidating Week (2 weekends and the week that falls between)
- May 20 - Annual Meeting

**Highlights of the January 2018 Board Meeting**

1. **Insurance Policy cancellation as of January 7, 2018.** Board made plans to continue work on securing insurance. Discussed alternative site for Sunday service at Larkin Park if unable to get an extension from Church Mutual.  
**UPDATE:** On January 17, Tim Brennan, **UUA Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer**, was able to get Church Mutual to extend our old policy from Jan. 7, 2018 to March 8, 2018.
2. **Treasurer:** Board approved Sandra Grajeda as Treasurer to fill the remainder of Barbara Dev's term ending June 30, 2018.
3. **Ministerial Search Timeline:** Ministerial Search Committee is on track. Interviews commence soon.
4. **Semi-Annual Congregational Budget Review Meeting with Town Hall:** (According to Standing Rules, on the 4th Sunday of January, budget information is presented to the congregation.) Planned meeting, child care. Sandy and Ruth Greene will present budget; vision update from August 2015 goals with summary of what we've accomplished; update from the Land Use Task Force, and Ministerial Search Committee.
5. **Retirement Party for Judy Bixel**—planned. Date TBD according to Judy's schedule.
6. **Active Shooter Procedure:** Board members, Nick and Joseph, will implement. Introduce at Town Hall portion of midyear meeting on Jan. 28.
7. **Communication with the Congregation**—Discussed letter from congregant about Joys and Sorrows; planned response.

**Board of Trustees Gratitude**

Thank you to

Terrie Maguire and Catherine Rowlee for “decking the halls” and brightening our lives during the holiday season

Kris Whyte and her daughters not only for hospitality help, but also for the new system of Patio Promotions

The Board appreciates all those who share their time and talents at MVUUC.

If you know of someone who deserves special recognition for their service to our community please contact the Board President, Rita Salama.

**FUN!draising:** The Board is still searching for members for the Fundraising Committee (formerly Ways and Means). The emphasis is on FUN! If you like to have FUN and like to plan, coordinate and organize FUN events, please contact Board President, Rita Salama at 509-630-3385, salamatoyou@yahoo.com.

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## REflections

*This is the message I gave on January 21, 2018 for the service *Fluent in Faith*.*

When I was in college, a friend invited me to attend church. My reply was that I don't do church, and even the thought of it was distasteful to me. When he explained how it was different than most churches, I went and found Unitarian Universalism.



But why did I bristle at that word - church? Probably because I grew up in a culturally Jewish family. We celebrated all the major Jewish holidays but never attended a religious service. My father was a devout atheist and my mother is an agnostic. So, in my Jewish atheistic world, I felt like church and religion were negative words. To my young mind the word church meant folks doing something that had no meaning to me (praying), to a deity that I did not believe in. Now, church to me can mean a Unitarian Universalist congregation where diverse beliefs can be held in one place. But the words church, prayer, god, faith, sin, salvation, and many more religious words seem to be off limits to many UUs.

Although some people may not think so, we have a rich Unitarian Universalist theology. We engage in meaningful dialogue about what we believe, what sustains us, and what sparks transcendent moments, but what words do we use to describe these things. Without a shared vocabulary, how do we express the deepness of our UU faith both within our congregations, and with others? I think we should embrace a language of reverence, both for ourselves and our children.



Just like there are physical and mental developmental phases, there are faith developmental stages. James Fowler developed six stages of faith for all people.

In the second stage (which is pre-school age), children don't yet have thought-out ideas for faith, but their impressions are gained from their parents or other significant adults in their lives. And they need to hear the language for these impressions.

We know that words are tools for expression and communication, but they are more than that. Words can mold what we think and experience. And they can be emotionally, psychologically and spiritually powerful. In Jeanne Nieuwejaar's (New Jar) book *Fluent in Faith*, she surmises that we shy away from religious vocabulary because we are an open-ended faith with varied beliefs. And since we can't find words that encompass all these beliefs, we don't use any of them. But I think we should try and accept this as a challenge instead of a problem.

In the next stage of Fowler's faith development, children ages 6 to 12 begin to differentiate between reality and fantasy. Their source of religious authority expands past parents and trusted adults to others in their community like teachers and friends. Faith is something that is experienced in their

lives. And they ask lots of questions, such as where was I before I was born, or before I was conceived? If they have the language to capture their experiences, they might find more meaning in them. They also need to understand what these religious words mean, not just in an off-handed manner but in the depth, they play in other people’s lives. Perhaps, in those depths, they will share a common understanding. Our children have to be comfortable with religious words so that they can understand other’s religions and explore their own beliefs.

As parents, teachers, and friends, we should be open, joyful, and confident in our language when talking with children. We need to feel secure in articulating our own beliefs, and find positive meanings for those religious words that may be difficult for us. Then we can use them with our children, our neighbors, and friends. As parents know, children learn more from overhearing our conversations than they do from us speaking directly just to them. One example of this language that we use in our lower elementary classes, is that we speak about the Spirit of Love and Justice and Truth, the Spirit of Mystery that some people call God.

In Unitarian Universalist congregations we will find theists, humanists, atheists, pagans, and more. Not everyone may like all the words used in a service or discussion, but we need to accept them and/or redefine them for ourselves. If we find ourselves objecting to someone’s choice of words, then our listening will not be open and affirming. If we get stuck on the linguistics, we may miss the experiences or thoughts being expressed. Just like our first principle which calls for affirming the worth and dignity of every person, we should affirm the language that each person chooses to use.

Embracing religious vocabulary may not be the perfect path to everything spiritual, but it can be a tool for spiritual growth for both ourselves and our children.

Looking forward to a wonderful 2018!

*Amy Randall*

Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration  
Credentialed Associate

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**MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Hello Friends,

We had a few hindrances the beginning of this New Year. Due to the recent lapse in insurance and closure of the building we were unable to have the Beyond Categorical Service and Workshop for the congregation on January 7th, along with the informative meeting scheduled on January 14th. We will announce when the informative meeting is rescheduled. It is also our hope to share what was discussed at the Beyond Categorical Workshop with the congregation before a candidate minister visits our congregation.

The late notice of the facilities closure did not allow enough time for a new venue to hold the Beyond Categorical service and workshop. Several people who are committee chairs attended, the Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration, along with the Ministerial Search Committee, and the

Board of Trustees. Reverend Jory Agate led the workshop with discussions and activities to help us transcend our categorical thinking. After several attempts to find a shelter to donate the excess food, it was shared with healthcare workers at Pomona Valley Medical Center. The pharmacy department was appreciative of the gift.

Despite these obstacles we have continued in our process and are up to date on our timeline. It is visible how important fellowship with each other is and part of the spirit of this congregation. This is an exciting time in the process. We are currently having our interviews with the ministerial candidates. There is great interest in serving and being a co-collaborator with our congregation. As each interview begins we light a chalice and have the candidates share opening words. We have used questions posed from cottage meetings and the survey in our process. In the near future we will narrow the candidates down to three. We will be doing thorough reference checks. We are in constant discussion on who would be the best fit for our congregation. We kindly remind you we will not be able to discuss names or any personal information of the candidates. We will continue to update the congregation in our process.

In loving service,  
The Ministerial Search Committee

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**Update from the Land Use Task Force  
February 1, 2018**

After meeting weekly in late November, December on a response to the preliminary proposal by CIM Group (the company that owns the mall) regarding our land, the Land Use Team was unable to meet until again until last Saturday January 27. This delay was due to the holidays, travel, and illness; I informed CIM of the reasons as well.

We made good progress last Saturday, and we'll meet again on Sat. February 3. We hope to complete our response to their first proposal, and we have used your suggestions and ideas as we make this item by item response. For example, we have discussed the sanctuary, the fellowship hall, the administration and RE buildings, the rental area, and so on. Once CIM Group receives our document, they can make a more fully-developed plan, a second proposal. It is my understanding that this is the one they will present to the congregation, so I expect it will take some time to produce. We'll ask them about their timeline and let you know.

This project is a joy, and it's very exciting to be part of it. Look for another update from us next month. Thanks for reading your announcements, the best way to stay fully informed.

Maribel Dana  
Chair, Land Use Task Force

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**Save Coffee Hour!  
15 minutes, noon, 2nd and 3rd Sundays**

No more Coffee on 2nd and 3rd Sundays? Whaaaat??? Can you donate 15 minutes to wash out 2 coffeepots at noon on one of these Sundays? We are switching to Bring-Your-Own-Mug and providing paper cups in order to make this a small time-commitment for 2nd and 3rd Sunday volunteers. Send me a message to say you'll take at 15 minute slot...[KrisWhyteKris@gmail.com](mailto:KrisWhyteKris@gmail.com) or text/call me at 909 262-9527.

**Welcome Marilyn!**

I want to welcome Marilyn Kilgore to our Hospitality Team and, thank you! Marilyn will be coordinating coffee service on the first Sundays each month. **Marilyn**, Terrie offered make coffee, since she's there early for choir most Sundays-just ask her directly if you'd want her to make coffee and all you'd have to do is set out a couple kinds of cookies you bring and clean-up around noon. Thanks to Terrie too for volunteering to do multiple coffee-making dates!

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**Wheel of the Year  
A Pagan Perspective on the Seasons**

This month I am going to share with you a portion of a speech by Carl Sagan that was given to the Planetary Society several years before his death. He was showing the final images from Voyager 1, as it was leaving the solar system.

He had persuaded the voyager team to turn Voyager around to take a "family portrait" of the planets. It was on Feb. 14, 1990, that the Voyager 1 spacecraft looked back at our solar system and snapped the first-ever pictures of the planets from its position beyond Neptune.

These were the last images that voyager took, as its camera was then turned off so that the computer controlling it could be re-assigned.

As a Pagan, my faith is Earth-based. This speech, and the photo that accompanied it made a profound impact on me. Here was our precious Earth, an insignificant blue dot against the vastness of space. Unfortunately, I can't show you the picture, but if you are interested, there are many on line. His speech can also be found in his book "Pale Blue Dot"

"Look again at that dot. That's here. That's home. That's us. On it everyone you love, everyone you know, everyone you ever heard of, every human being who ever was, lived out their lives. The aggregate of our joy and suffering, thousands of confident religions, ideologies, and economic doctrines, every hunter and forager, every hero and coward, every creator and destroyer of civilization, every king and peasant, every young couple in love, every mother and father, hopeful child, inventor and explorer, every teacher of morals, every corrupt politician, every "superstar,"

every "supreme leader," every saint and sinner in the history of our species lived there-on a mote of dust suspended in a sunbeam.

The Earth is a very small stage in a vast cosmic arena. Think of the endless cruelties visited by the inhabitants of one corner of this pixel on the scarcely distinguishable inhabitants of some other corner, how frequent their misunderstandings, how eager they are to kill one another, how fervent their hatreds. Think of the rivers of blood spilled by all those generals and emperors so that, in glory and triumph, they could become the momentary masters of a fraction of a dot.

Our posturing, our imagined self-importance, the delusion that we have some privileged position in the Universe, are challenged by this point of pale light. Our planet is a lonely speck in the great enveloping cosmic dark. In our obscurity, in all this vastness, there is no hint that help will come from elsewhere to save us from ourselves.

The Earth is the only world known so far to harbor life. There is nowhere else, at least in the near future, to which our species could migrate. Visit, yes. Settle, not yet. Like it or not, for the moment the Earth is where we make our stand.

It has been said that astronomy is a humbling and character-building experience. There is perhaps no better demonstration of the folly of human conceits than this distant image of our tiny world. To me, it underscores our responsibility to deal more kindly with one another, and to preserve and cherish the pale blue dot, the only home we've ever known." — Carl Sagan, Pale Blue Dot: A Vision of the Human Future in Space

Until next time, Blessed Be  
Jeanne Coats

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**MVUUC Calendar – Februaryy 2018**

MVUUC Calendar, Founders' Room, Minister's Office, Patio / Outdoors, Room 1, Room 3, Room 8, Sanctuary, Worship Feb 2018 (Pacific Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
				6pm - Choir Set-up and 6pm - Music and 7:30pm - Choir	10:30am - Staff	9am - Land Use
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8:45am - Freethinkers 10:30am - The 12pm - Ministerial 12pm - Youth Safety 2pm - African Drum	6:30pm - Circle Singers 7pm - Finding Heart		10:30am - A Course In 6pm - Personnel 7pm - Finance 7:15pm - Meditation	6pm - Choir Set-up and 6pm - Facilities 7:30pm - Choir	10:30am - Staff 6pm - Private @ 7pm - CUUPs Liquid 9pm - Private @	6pm - Small Group
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
8:30am - Men's Group 10:30am - The Spiritual 11:30am - Retirement 12pm - Ministerial 12pm - RE Council 12pm - Val Pal Party @ 2pm - African Drum	7pm - Finding Heart	10am - Buuk Group @ 7pm - Evensong @	10:30am - A Course In 6:30pm - Board of	6pm - Choir Set-up and 6pm - Membership 7:30pm - Choir	10:30am - Staff 2:30pm - Knitting	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
8:45am - Freethinkers 10:30am - Evolution 12pm - Ministerial 12pm - Social Justice 2pm - African Drum	6:30pm - Circle Singers	5pm - Evensong Set-Up 6:30pm - Adult RE	10:30am - A Course In 7:15pm - Meditation/CI	4pm - Social Justice 6pm - Choir Set-up and 7:30pm - Choir	10:30am - Staff 6pm - Private @ 7pm - CUUPs Liquid 9pm - Private @	
25	26	27	28	1	2	3
8am - MVUUC Annual Stewardship Drive						
10:30am - Stewardship 12pm - Internship 12pm - Ministerial 12:30pm - Adult 2pm - African Drum	7pm - Finding Heart	7pm - Evensong @	10:30am - A Course In			

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

Office Hours: Weekday mornings, 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM  
Telephone: 909-626-0520, Office email: [officeadmin@montevistauu.org](mailto:officeadmin@montevistauu.org)

Rev. Susan Manker (Tuesday, Thursday: 9:00 AM - 12 Noon)  
Bookkeeper: Tracy Batres (Tuesday, Wednesday: 8:00 AM - 12:00 Noon)  
Office Administrator: Tricia French (Monday, Thursday, Friday 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM)  
Facilities Assistant: Joyce Armenta (Tuesday, Friday: 6:30 AM - 11:30 AM)

**Membership**

We encourage all inquiries about becoming part of this wonderful, warm and welcoming community.

For more information, please contact Elizabeth Meehan at 949-290-2615



Send newsletter articles to [officeadmin@montevistauu.org](mailto:officeadmin@montevistauu.org) by the 23<sup>rd</sup> of the month.

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