## Summary of Sunday Services

**10:30 AM**

**February 3:**  **Religion and Science Fiction: Spirituality in Unexpected Sources**  
Guest speaker: R. Patrick Reeves, PhD  
Lay leader: Catherine Rowlee

Spiritual inspiration comes from many sources, including literature and popular culture. Surprisingly, science fiction and fantasy literature and film are often a rich source of inspiration, which raises questions of what is a “real religion,” spirituality and imagination, and inspiration as a religious and artistic phenomenon.

**February 10:**  **Facing Evil With Kindness**  
Rev. Pratima Dharm

Life presents so many challenges that it is very difficult to be kind to all. And yet as Unitarian Universalists, we are called to live and to practice the principle of ‘justice, equity, and compassion in human relations.’ Rev. Dharm will speak on how to face evil with kindness on 10th February even with those who do not seem to merit much kindness.

**February 17:**  **Taking A Chance At Love!**  
Rev. Pratima Dharm

Rev. Dharm will speak on what it can mean to take a chance at love on 17th of February. Loving can mean taking a chance or a gamble on someone or something...and yet it gives us the opportunity to experience the unexpected, which can leave an indelible impression on our hearts and our very souls!

**February 24:**  **Why Is It So Hard To Say Sorry?**  
Rev. Pratima Dharm

 Forgiveness reminds us to get back into right relationship with those whom we have wronged. The onus is upon those who have wronged or hurt someone and not vice versa. Rev. Dharm will speak on this very human challenge on 24th February.
Rev. Pratima Dharm’s Message

As we enter the month of February, we are once again bombarded with messages of love associated with Valentine’s Day. Mostly these messages are exaggerated sentiments circling the phenomenon of love. For those who are not in a certain bracket of ‘valentine’ appropriate or censored relationship…it is almost a message of doom and eternal loneliness…even if many have made a conscious choice to stay single...(the presumption is that they are utterly lost, lonely and miserable, in their singlehood even if the opposite could be true and they are blissfully happy!). Despite the range of lifestyle choices people make for themselves, various businesses and advertisers remain focused upon targeting the masses with an exaggerated message of perfect love, clearly toying with people’s insecurities and fears around the subject to boost sales for goods and services associated with Valentine’s Day!

Since the Middle Ages, the larger culture has over imaged or imagined this day of love, with a Catholic saint who had, I am certain, very little to do with the kind of romantic love traditionally associated with it! The truth is that I do believe in love…but real love…a love where I can depend upon someone other than myself…a love that is good for our hearts...because there are obvious physical, emotional and spiritual benefits to sharing our lives, our hopes and dreams with someone else! I also respect that some people simply make a conscious decision to be single and they should be left alone and not made to feel guilty, especially because they are completely ok with their choice. I am also not in favor of the pressure to buy the best gifts for those whom we love or harbor a similar expectation for ourselves...as if how we feel love is closely connected with the size of the bouquet or a box of chocolates! Again, the image that bigger is better may not always indicate that love is truly present in our lives or take us any closer to real love!

Real love is imperfect. It can hold both joy and misery, kindness and unkindness, and be messier than we like. The fact is that almost none of us escape its ability to look us in the face and challenge us to be better individuals and be intentional in our relationship with others. As Unitarian Universalists we are to practice kindness, love, compassion, equity and justice in all our interactions. And so a daily practice of being kind with ourselves and others may especially help when we are met with difficult partners, lovers, friends, strangers or situations! A once a year, ritual of buying someone flowers, cards, chocolates etc. cannot wipe away the daily pain and trauma we may cause in someone’s life or vice versa! Most of the time it is best to start afresh, especially when we are not in right relations with one another. To begin again, we could admit that we are wrong and say sorry! As Shakespeare who epitomized love wrote, “Forget, forgive, conclude and be agreed.” May we be willing to forgive and hope to love again and may it lead us to all that our hearts truly seek...

Blessings and love,
Rev. Pratima Dharm
Presidents’ Message

Beloved MVUUC CommUUnity,

Having just observed Martin Luther King’s Day with the emphasis on diversity and his role in desegregation, it should be noted that his opposition to the war in Vietnam, and his response to poverty, made worse by US government spending on warfare, were themes of the last year of MLK's life. He was in the midst of organizing a multiracial Poor People's March on Washington when he was assassinated in Memphis on April 4, 1968, having visited Memphis in support of a labor strike by sanitation workers. Few may be aware that he advocated for a basic minimum income for all. He said, paraphrased, "What good is the "right" to sit down at a restaurant when you can't afford to buy your family a meal?"

Two books written by William Pepper dealing with the murder of MLK are An Act of State: The Execution of Martin Luther King, from 2008, and The Plot to Kill King, which was published last year. William Pepper was a friend of MLK's during the last year of his life. Pepper was asked by the King Family to represent them in a wrongful death suit in which the jury found that US government agencies bore 70% of the responsibility for King's death, a verdict rendered in December of 1999 with little press attention. In 1967, Martin Luther King said the US government as "the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today," a statement that is still true. In his honor, we should be active in a renewed peace movement.

Coming up on January 31 is just such an opportunity at the Claremont School of Theology with a dinner at 6 PM followed by the program by Inland Valley Interfaith Working Group for Middle East Peace: What in Heaven’s Name is Going On in the Holy Land? What can we do to promote peace? Please R.S.V.P. to tjonson@cst.edu

In choosing the path with a heart, the celebration of Valentine’s Day at MVUUC will be on February 10, with Val Pals. It's been a fun tradition here for many years.

Warm Regards,
Cynthia Allaire

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**RE flections**

We started our 2\textsuperscript{nd} semester on January 6\textsuperscript{th} and in last month’s newsletter, I summarized the classes for the semester. Now we would like everyone to join us in our upcoming events and adult offerings.

**Chili Dinner, Karaoke, and Games Night Fund Raiser - February 9**

Join us on February 9 at 5:30 PM at MVUUC as an all-congregation event. Chili, cornbread and soft drinks will be provided, supplemented with a bar (donations accepted). The entrance fee will be $10 per person, $25 per family. A raffle basket and 50-50 drawing, will also be included. All the monies raised will be for summer camp scholarships for our children and youth. We hope that we will have hit our goal of $1,000 after this event, as we are about three-quarters of the way there.

**Val Pals Event - February 10**

Join us after service for a great meet and greet of adults and kids. **All participants MUST be signed-up in advance!** If you would like to be an Adult Pal or if you want your child to participate, please sign up at the RE Greeter table or contact me.

An **adult Val Pal** is an adult who agrees to meet and chat with a child after service February 10. Adults will be asked to bring a book or other educational item under $20 for their pal. Books (reading, craft, or activity), educational/activity kits, stuffed animals, stickers, and treats are all very appropriate. **We are trying to get away from toys.** Adults will receive the name of their pal (and their interests) by February 5.

A **child Val Pal** is a child who spends class time on February 10, decorating cupcakes and making cards in order to get to meet an adult in our congregation.

**MVUUC Congregational Cookbook**

Lyn Shaible, our own self-publishing guru, is spearheading the MVUUC Congregational Cookbook fund raiser project. The finished product will be an attractively bound cookbook comprised of favorite recipes from many members of the MVUUC community. **Please submit your favorite recipe** via emailing Lyn Shaible: Lcshaible@gmail.com with MVUUC Recipe in the subject field.
Adult Classes

*Introduction to Humanism – The Future of Humanism* February 3 at 12:15 PM in Founder’s Room

*UU History Movies and Discussion* – Sundays after service beginning end of February. Watch the announcements for more details.

Interest Groups

The Adult RE Council is also in charge of Interest Groups. We are starting some groups now. Contact the leader if you are interested in participating.

Current groups and their coordinators are:

- Poetry (Rita Salama, salamtatoyou@yahoo.com or 509-630-3385)
- Yoga (John Schmalstig, schmalstig89@gmail.com or 909-489-1035)
- Women’s Group (Ellen Livingston, revellenuu@gmail.com or 909-625-5454)
- Gardening (Jamal Carver, jcarver@vt.edu)
- Willing to coordinate the Hiking Group? - Email ljmulroy@gmail.com

New Ideas?

If you have ideas for an event, adult class, or interest group, please contact me. We are always open to hear your suggestions. Thank you for making our programs a success!

Faithfully Yours,
Amy Randall
Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration
Credentialed Associate

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MVUUC WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

**Kerry Thorne** has been a life-long UU. He grew up in Echo Park and attended the 1st Unitarian Church of L.A. He and his wife Cicely have recently moved to Pomona. Kerry has been a preschool teacher and a Marriage and Family Therapist and is currently seeking employment.

Kerry enjoys singing, going for walks and photography. He also enjoys the “wonderful, supportive community” at MVUUC—especially during this challenging time for him and Cicely.

**Cicely Gilman** grew up in Boulder, Colorado attending an Episcopal Church, and later, when her father died, a Unitarian church - her stepfather’s religion.
Cicely met her husband Kerry at a Unitarian church when she started attending again in the 1990’s after a long hiatus.

Cicely has lived in Vienna, Austria and attended college in London. Living in Europe had a profound influence on her. Cicely is an artist and has worked as a commercial textile designer and as a preschool teacher. She is currently looking for a job where she can use her artistic talents.

Her hobbies are doll making, swimming, reading, traveling, hiking, and she enjoys escapism TV shows.

JoAnn Sincoff grew up in Culver City and Whittier. United Methodist was the religion of her youth. She was introduced to Unitarianism by her friend, Kerry Thorne.

She has a Master of Fine Arts degree, and worked in business in L.A., San Francisco and Portland, Oregon for 35 years before retiring. She is a widow and shares a home with Kerry and Cicely.

JoAnn loves bunnies and volunteers weekly at the Bunny Bunch Organization. She is also an avid book reader.

2018 Auction Report “Night of Stars” and Donations to Refugee/Immigrant Groups

Dear Members and Friends of MVUUC,

Thank you so much for your support of the 2018 Auction. Thanks to you and generous business donors, our total Income as of November 30 was $7,990.36.

The 2017-2018 Board of Trustees originally approved the idea of giving 10% of auction income to refugee groups in our area. To our knowledge, this is the first time that an auction has been tied to a cause beyond fundraising for Monte Vista, and that was good motivation for our Auction Team and for members. This Board also decided to donate a total of 15% to these groups if we earned over $10,000, but we did not achieve that level of giving this year. Maybe next time!
I apologize that so much time has passed before clarifying these details for the congregation, but there were the holidays, vacations, travels and visitors for many involved helpers. Today, two checks for $400 each were mailed to the Claremont Canopy, Claremont, which describes itself as:

“a grassroots organization founded to support people displaced by forced migration who have resettled in Claremont and surrounding areas. We work to provide a community that is welcoming, affordable, and sustainable as they build new lives here. To achieve this, we connect people and organizations and create opportunities in education, employment, and community integration.”

You will also remember that the Claremont Canopy Caterers prepared both our auction dinner and our springtime Annual Dinner in 2018. Members have highly praised the Mediterranean meals.

The second check went to the Newcomers Access Center, Pomona, whose mission is to:

“help refugee and immigrant families connect with appropriate services and resources in order to aid them to become self-sufficient and integrate meaningfully into the larger society. NAC finds organizations to work with newcomers to build integrated communities where all cultures are respected.”

Several MVUUC members have worked to create and support both organizations as the families expand their lives in this new country. We salute you for your many hours of welcoming, assisting and connecting these newcomers to jobs, schools, health services and multitudes of other tasks that are labors of love.

Sincerely,

Maribel Dana, Chair

Other Auction Team Members: Catherine Rowlee, Laura Mulroy, Kay Pearlman, Rita Salama

Available Auction Events

Seats are still available at other AWESOME events throughout the year! Click this link to our website Post Auction Events or check the list on the green table at the back of the Sanctuary to see what's available. Contact Maribel Dana or Rita Salama to reserve your spot.
Chalice Lighter Grant

Helping Our Member Congregations

In the last several months the Board of Trustees encouraged members to sign up for the Chalice Lighter program. They planned to apply for a Chalice Lighter Grant as soon as we had enough members contributing as Chalice Lighter supporters. In order to receive a grant, we must have 20% of members contributing to 3 yearly calls of $20 per call. The good news is that, currently, we are over that 20% threshold; however, if some of us become inactive we could lose eligibility, so please go to the website and become a Chalice Lighter if you have not done so already.

https://pswduua.org/about-us/about-the-district/programs/chalice-lighters/

Please visit the page below and learn about all the good your help can provide for congregations in our Pacific Southwest District. You will also be helping our own congregation with fundraising for our growth. MVUUC may be applying for a grant next summer.

Flyer with detailed description of Chalice Lighters:

Online Chalice Lighter Enrollment: (Be sure to enroll in the Pacific Southwest District’s program.)
https://register.pwruua.org/chalice-lighter-enrolment/

Maribel Dana, Bruce Mount, and I will be meeting in the middle of February to discuss applying for the Chalice Lighters grant and the possibility of writing another Spirit Level grant. Anyone interested in getting involved with the grant writing process should contact me, Co-Vice President Nicholas Von Glahn (nrvonglahn@cpp.edu) as soon as possible.

Wheel of the Year
A Pagan Perspective on the Seasons

Imbolc - February 1, 2019

On February first, many Pagans will celebrate the Sabbat of Imbolc. The actual date of Imbolc varies, falling as early as January 29th and as late as February 3rd, but like many Pagan holidays, it begins the moment the sun sets and ends just before sunset on the following day.

Imbolc was one of the major festivals of the Celtic year. It marked the beginning of spring and coincided with the lambing season and the first plowing in many areas. The success of all these events was of great importance to economies that relied on herding and farming. The earth had to be reborn from its cold sterility if the crops were to be sown and succeed. Warm weather and soft rain were also essential. The beginning of lambing season also brought fresh milk at the time of year when cow’s milk was generally unavailable, and the winter stores of root vegetables, grain and meat were getting very low.
Many Imbolc rituals focused on ensuring a steady supply of food until the harvest six months later. This was when the Goddess Brighid was welcomed into every home by the re-lighting of the hearth fire.

The Sabbats celebrate transitions, the passage from spring to summer, and from winter to spring, for example, so it is not surprising that the name of this holiday, also called Imbolg, the feast of Brighid, and the Calends of February, found its way into modern Pagan practice from its native Celtic peoples. Of course, it is not only the Pagans who have decided to honor this holiday, as its main focus—the change from winter to spring—is most assuredly the point of our secular "Groundhog Day."

The ancient Romans, Celts, Greeks, Chinese and many Native Americans all have similar holidays at this time of year, and many Reconstructionists, followers of ancient religions being resurrected through a combination of faith, scholastic research, and imagination, practice Imbolc in forms far closer to the originals than the modern holiday practiced by many “Modern” Pagans.

For many, Imbolc is a time still locked in the gloom of winter. However, here in California, this is a time when we often get our most lovely weather, and the onset of our rainy season, making it a true celebration of spring.

Many Pagans celebrate this holiday as a group by standing in a dark room, with one small candle flame, a Bridget Candle, lighting their way. Each person then lights their candle from that flame, until everyone in the room is bathed in the great light of Bridget’s light and love. Prayers are said for a gentle spring, and that stores of food and money, greatly depleted by the festivities of the winter solstice, last long enough to be supplemented by the first crops.

It is a holiday of preparedness. Houses are scrubbed floor to ceiling, bills are paid, and taxes are filed, so that none of the business of the winter interferes with the pure joy of the earth's rebirth. When this has been done, we determine, by logic, by divination, or just an educated guess, what in our lives will not last through spring.

So, we celebrate, symbolically, in modern times, what to our ancestors was often a dire time of want and scarcity, when only by sharing their meager resources could everyone keep from starving. Making a huge kettle of “stone soup”— soup made by what is brought to it by those that would eat it is a great way for us to symbolically celebrate the end of food scarcity, where sharing together in this great pot of soup, complete with a version of the Stone Soup story is a reminder of how the simplest things can become fantastic with the addition of one magic ingredient—community.

Until next time, Blessed Be
Jeanne Coats

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### MVUUC Calendar – February 2019

**MVUUC Calendar, Founders' Room, Minister's Office, Patio / Outdoors, Room 1, Room 3, Room 8, Sanctuary, Feb 2019 (Pacific Time - Los Angeles)**

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**Worship**

- **8:45am**: Freethinkers
- **10:30am**: Religion and Humanism
- **12pm**: Council of Chairs
- **7pm**: Worship and Choir Set-up
- **10:30am**: Staff
- **6pm**: CUUPs Liquid
- **8am**: Community
- **2pm**: Karaoke/Gam

**Meeting and Support**

- **9am**: Board of Directors
- **10am**: Buuk Group @
- **10:30am**: Staff
- **10:30am**: Staff
- **10:30am**: Staff

**Programs**

- **10:30am**: Men's Group
- **10:30am**: Men's Group
- **12pm**: Social Justice
- **7:30pm**: Choir
- **7:30pm**: Choir
- **7:30pm**: Choir

**Social**

- **4:30pm**: Youth Mentor
- **6:30pm**: CUUPs Liquid
- **5:30pm**: Karaoke/Gam
GENERAL INFORMATION

Office Hours: Monday, Thursday, Friday - 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Telephone: 909-626-0520, Office email: officeadmin@montevistauu.org

Rev. Pratima Dharm - Thursday, Friday: 10:30 AM – 1:00 PM
Director of Lifespan Religious Exploration: Amy Randall - Friday - 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM
Office Administrator: Tricia French - Monday, Thursday, Friday: 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Bookkeeper: Tracy Batres - Monday, Tuesday: 12:30 - 4:30 PM
Facilities Assistant: Joyce Armenta - Monday, Friday: 7:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Membership
We encourage all inquiries about becoming part of this wonderful, warm and welcoming community.
For more information, please contact Mary Darrow at mlbdarrow@gmail.com or 909-608-2363
or Sara Langford at sarajlangford@gmail.com

Send newsletter articles to officeadmin@montevistauu.org by the 23rd of the month.

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