NOVEMBER 4
GRATEFUL, EVEN FOR MY WOUNDS
As befits the month within which Thanksgiving falls, our monthly theme in November is Gratitude. We are told to count our blessings, and that it is possible to find meaning in every one of the experiences in our lives. It is not an easy task in this hard and often unjust world, but it is one worth pursuing, even into the dark and difficult parts of our lives.

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Joe Gabaeff, Rev. Dara Olandt. Music by: Sally Jones, Billie Sue Fischer, Roger Corman
Share the Basket: YWCA Safe House

NOVEMBER 11
LOVE LETTERS WE WROTE WHILE THE WORLD WENT TO WAR
This Sunday we honor and acknowledge Veteran’s Day, lifting forward letters that communicate the power of love across space, time, distance and conflict. All are welcome for this service of inquiry and hope.

Service Leaders: Rev. Dara Olandt, Susan Panttaja, Rev. Chris Bell. Music by: Sadie Sonntag & the Choir; Roger Corman
Share the Basket: Child Parent Institute

NOVEMBER 18
THANKS FOR NOTHING!
An exploration of the oft-misunderstood Buddhist teaching about emptiness, which “is” the ungraspable, ever-present ever-changing nature of life, and how awareness of this can offer relief from suffering. This service will complement the Big Bang service by looking more closely at the Nothing out of which Something comes! Svaha!

Share the Basket: Worth Our Weight

NOVEMBER 25
THE COST OF GRATITUDE?
“I remain skeptical of the commodification of gratitude, suspicious of the conclusion, so easily drawn, that if you do not feel grateful it is because you are not trying hard enough,” writes Moya Sarner in The Guardian. Yet, she also acknowledges times when gratitude helped her experience a “new layer of life.” We’ll talk about that, and also non-skeptically give lots of thanks for the harvest and the world and each other.

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell, Cathy Read, Rev. Dara Olandt. Music by: Sadie Sonntag & the Choir, Roger Corman
Share the Basket: Breakfast for our Neighbors

DECEMBER 2
ON PUNISHMENT AND REHABILITATION
The theme of December is Peace, as it has been for many generations. An unsolved challenge to peace is the reality of people who commit crimes, start wars, exploit others, and so forth, and an unsolved challenge is how to deal with such people in a just and peaceful manner. Is there ever a time for punishment? What is true rehabilitation?

Service Leaders: Rev. Chris Bell (preaching), Joe Gabaeff, Rev. Dara Olandt, Judy Withee. Music by: Mary Chapot & this week’s musicians; Roger Corman
Share the Basket: the Living Room

DECEMBER 21
WINTER SOLSTICE SERVICE
The annual Winter Solstice service is a family friendly event with great potluck food, drumming for all, and a celebration of the Sun we all need in the depths of long winter days. Blessed Be!

TUESDAY SCRIPTURES STUDY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Scripture</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JAN 22 — FEB 12</td>
<td>Tao Te Ching</td>
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<tr>
<td>FEB 26—MAR 12</td>
<td>The Wisdom Books</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAR 26 — APR 9</td>
<td>Teachings of Jesus pt. 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APR 23 — MAY 7</td>
<td>Teachings of Jesus pt. 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAY 28 — JUNE 11</td>
<td>Rev. Hosea Ballou</td>
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See page 4 for more information
Approaching my 51st birthday this last July 9th I announced what I called my “health revolution.” I told my kids and some close friends, and anyone who happened to be listening, that I was going to pursue a program of self-care in a different and more committed way than I had able to do in the past. I drew up very detailed daily calendars in order to demonstrate that there was plenty of time to accomplish my goals on any given day. I loaded the phone with inspiring podcasts.

I was going to exercise in a predictable manner. I was going to do my Qi Gong and my morning meditation every day. I was going to begin reading books again, rather than simply reviews of books.

And, most significantly, I was going to abstain from intoxicants, which is to say from marijuana and alcohol, the only drugs and/or medicines and/or poisons I have ever used on a regular basis. Intoxicants, it seemed to me in July, were the main barrier between me and the achievement of the goals stated above. Or any of my other big, change-oriented or discipline-oriented goals.

I have had a close relationship with marijuana since I was 19 years old, when it was still quite illegal in Cleveland, Ohio. I had managed to eschew weed and booze through most of high school, but after I dropped out of my first attempt at college, in the midst of the collapse of my family’s small business, my step-father’s heavy drinking, and the divorce that came from all of that, I finally found the cure for my rather severe depression in pot.

And then came working in a brewery, waiting tables, selling wine for a living, and moving to California. I don’t know if you heard, but marijuana is legal here. Has been for years.

The Buddha taught that life was fraught with suffering and that it was caused by craving/addiction. So, I am both terribly sorry, horribly ashamed, and enormously relieved to tell you that I am among those normal, natural, sensible, intelligent, loving, caring, self-destructive human beings to fall into this affliction. I hoped, I meant, I intended, I tried to abstain. I have not been able to do so. I have gone to many 12-step meetings. I worked with friends who are also getting clean. I read books. But habits, physical longings, and psychological obstacles have, so far, proven stronger. I am hooked.

My “health revolution” effort has been a failure, so much so that in the end it led me to lying about it to a dear friend, which I was finally called to confess, and which seems to have finally opened the flood gates of both fierce determination and utter helplessness. No other moment has provoked this kind of crystalline clarity about the state of my addiction, although I’ve had plenty of opportunities. I can live with being an addict – I have for years – but I cannot live with being a liar.

Addiction is a fearsome beast. It is an alluring siren. It is a treasured companion. It is an endlessly fascinating distraction. And, I pray, I am finally sick of it.

Therefore, beginning on Monday, November 5th, I will take two weeks of sick leave (of the three I’ve accumulated) to enter a 14-day outpatient intensive in Vallejo. I will be away from the office and all communications until Saturday, November 17th.

This will be followed by 8 weeks of an evening program here in Santa Rosa, and then continuing treatment and meetings on the other side.

I am putting all of this in front of you for both selfish and altruistic reasons. I believe that the greatest good always brings benefit to self and other. I simply want to be straightforward from this moment on. I need your support. And I hope that my example and experience may be of some benefit to others who struggle in this way.

I have received wonderful encouragement from everyone I have spoken to about this so far: Rev. Dara Olandt, Deborah Mason, Dr. Lisa Thompson, the care team at Kaiser, my children Caitlin and Aaron, Fr. Matt Lawrence, Lucia Milburn (Committee on Shared Ministry), several close colleagues, UUCSR president Natalie Brundred, and DRE Jen Freese. I am genuinely humbled and profoundly grateful for all of their support, which I know they will extend to you.

The advice I have received says: go for it, don’t fight it, don’t think you know anything, and do everything they say. To use a Zen image, I pledge to treat myself as the slowest, stupidest horse in the race, and to throw myself into the program with all my heart. Somewhere underneath this fog, and underneath all of my untreated grief and sorrow (from the sexual abuse I endured, the death of my parents, the end of my marriage, etc., etc.) lies the actual Chris Bell. I’m eager to meet him. I hope you will be, too.

I know that we have had a lot of changes and turmoil in recent months around here. I happen to think that they are all for the good, that we are in a time of transformation and growth together. I pray that this actual “health revolution” on my part will be more of the same. That said, be extra nice to Damilia, our new temporary administrator, won’t you?

I am so grateful to know you, to worship and sing with you, to lead you, to care for you, and now to be able to be truly honest in my weakness with you. I am so sorry for the ways I have stayed hidden from you, and for any difficulties these two weeks away may cause. Please feel free to call me with any questions or concerns. And may God continue to bless our journey together.

Reverend Chris Bell
I’ve been asking myself lately, “What is it to be a Unitarian Universalist in these days?” And I think at least part of the answer lies in living our faith. Living our principles – FOR REAL. IN ACTION.

Our current President of the Unitarian Universalist Association, Susan Frederick-Gray, keeps speaking and writing about this being no time for a casual faith. There’s something about that saying that hits me deeply, and keeps unfolding.

When I look at the upcoming mid-term elections, when I look at the advertising for or against a candidate or proposition and how divisive they are, when I look at the deepening divisions in this country that I love and across the world, I’ll be honest with you – I despair. I get so resigned and hopeless that things can and will move toward the better – toward people loving and respecting each other, toward people truly listening deeply and openly to each other, to people relating to each other and to the world with open hearts. You’ve heard the phrase “donor fatigue”? Well, I tend to have “progressive fatigue”! I’m definitely going to research the issues and vote, but boy, I can’t wait for the elections to be over! I’m so tired of being smacked in the face, over and over, day after day, with all the things that seem wrong.

And then I remember that, even though I won’t be smacked in the face, those issues will still be there. And that’s when “This is no time for a casual faith” really comes in to play.

We are so divided these days. There is no sense of Beloved Community in our larger, United States of America, community. We treat each other with so little respect and honoring and value. And to be honest with you, it is so hard for me to respect the inherent worth and dignity of those who are sling the mud. For me to remember that underneath their radically different opinions and points of view, they are a human being just like I am, with the same kinds of hopes and dreams driving them that drive me.

To live my Unitarian Universalist faith, to live our 7 Principles, in my day-to-day life, day in and day out, is a hard thing these days. And you know? I think that’s the game-changing contribution we Unitarian Universalists have to give.

This IS no time for a casual faith. To live your principles when times are good is easy. To live them when times are hard, like these – that’s when one’s mettle gets tested.

Do I walk my UU talk? Can I? Every day is a challenge to do so. And oftentimes I fail. But when I do, can I pick myself up, dust myself off, remember what I stand for, and dive right back in to the fray? I’m trying! And I hope you are, too.

Will you stand with me, as imperfect, flawed human beings, who have a vision of a better life – one where we come from love – even towards those we dislike and whose points of view we abhor? And who work every day, every minute, to be that better person, to make that vision of a better life real? Please join me at those barricades – the best ones worth fighting for.

With love and in partnership,

-Natalie Brundred, President, Board of Trustees

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**What Your Board Is Up To — November 2018**

We have a new temporary, part-time administrator! Her name is Damilia Loupy. She’s adapted very quickly and is doing an excellent job. A job description for a permanent Administrative Manager is in development, and we plan to advertise it in January or February.

The board reviewed and approved the agenda for the upcoming Town Hall meeting. In addition, they were informed that new full directories would be available at the Town Hall.

Michael Randolph reported that our income from pledges appears to be unexpectedly low for the first quarter of our fiscal year. He will examine the situation in detail and report back. In addition, it turns out that only 25% of the Congregation’s households have increased their pledges under this year’s Initiative. If you haven’t raised your pledge in a while, even if it’s by only a few dollars a month, now is the time! Every dollar allows us to fulfill our mission and our vision in a larger, more effective way, and is deeply appreciated.

The Board aims to strengthen our congregation to better serve our members and to expand our outreach. We invite and welcome your ideas and feedback. Please seek us out during the social hour, contact us via email, or attend the Board’s meetings. Board meeting minutes are posted on our website and our bulletin boards. The next Board Meeting will be Thursday, November 15, at 6:30, in the Board Room. We’d love to see you there!

-Natalie
Adult Religious Education
Guided by UU Principles, Rooted in Unitarian Universalism Sources, and Our Congregation’s Mission and Vision, the Adult RE Team strengthens community and facilitates spiritual growth by offering classes, activities, programs, training of facilitators and coordination of other UUCSR activities. Members of the ARE Committee: Helga Lemke, Nadine Carroll, Phil Harriman, Sarita Hazen, John Speck and Rev. Chris.

WE WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU THINK!
This next year in our congregational adult religious
education Rev. Chris will be teaching his Scriptures Study series,
and a new drop-in series called “The Theology of Rev. Chris.” A
third presentation of Seniors in Transition coordinated by Linda
Proulx is in the works, and a possible program on “Supporting
Your Aging Parents.”

We’d love to hear your ideas for new programs of any
type and, hopefully, your interest in offering classes. Pick up a
proposed class form at the RE table, contact anyone on our RE
team or join us for one of our meetings (1st Monday of the
month at 1:00). We’d love some new committee members!

SCRIPTURES STUDY 2018-2019
with Rev. Chris Bell
TUESDAYS 8:30am – 9:30am AND 5:30pm – 6:30pm
1/22 – 2/12 Tao Te Ching 4 sessions
2/26 – 3/12 The Wisdom Books (Proverbs, Job, Ecclesiastes) 3 sessions
3/26 – 4/09 Teachings of Jesus pt. 1 (Parables, stories) 3 sessions
4/23 – 5/07 Teachings of Jesus pt. 2 (Ethics, prayer) 3 sessions
5/28 – 6/11 Rev. Hosea Ballou A Treatise on Atonement 3 sessions

THE THEOLOGY OF REV. CHRIS
With Rev. Chris Bell
Once per month on a Saturday or Wednesday
Saturday sessions will be at 10:00am – 12:00pm
Wednesday sessions will be at 6:30pm – 8:30pm
Sat, Nov. 24 Reason & Revelation
Sat, Dec. 22 Nature of God, Pt. 1
Wed, Jan 23 Messiahs & Angels, Buddhas & Bodhisattvas
Sat, Feb. 9 The Problem of Evil
Sat, Mar 9 Human Nature
Sat, April 13 Sacred & Profane
Sat, May 11 Life, Death and Afterlife
Wed, June 12 Nature of God, Pt. 2

RACIAL JUSTICE ALLIES
DIALOGUES FOR 2018
2nd Thursdays, 6:30-8:30 pm
Racial Justice 2018 Dialogues will be happening the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Glaser (UU) Center from 6:30-8:30PM. Upcoming topics will be: Teach Your Children Well: Educational Justice in Sonoma County Schools; Implicit Racial Bias; What to Do Instead of Calling the Police; Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change: Toward Right Relationship with Native People’s; The Long Shadow documentary https://vimeo.com/204094755

UUCSR WRITING GROUP
Mondays, Nov. 5 & 19, 1:30-3:30 pm
The UUCSR Writing Group invites interested writers and new writers to join us on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month from 1:30-3:30PM. All levels of experience welcome. Email Marge Wright at marge@sonic.net with questions or just attend.

DRAWING GROUP
Wednesdays 1-3 pm
Artists of all levels are encouraged to join Bill Brewster and Patrice Le Pera to find inspiration and encouragement, and to explore techniques through sharing as a group. We meet Wednesdays 2:00 to 4:00 pm. Bring your projects and ideas, and the art supplies you need. No fee or obligation.

EVENING BOOK GROUP
2nd Thursdays, 7-9 pm
The Evening Book Group will meet on Thursday, November 8th from 7 to 9 p.m. at 547 Mendocino. We meet in the RE wing. The November selection is Killers of the Flower Moon by David Grann. Visitors and newcomers are welcome. In December we are reading Less by Andrew Sean Greer. If you have questions, please contact Linda Lampson.

UUSC HOLIDAY CARDS
Back by popular demand - UU Service Committee beautiful Holiday cards!
The UU Service Committee, is our international justice representative operating in many countries. UUSC partners with local organizations working for economic, gender, and environmental justice, to protect human and civil rights at risk. A current focuses is the Rohingya people, crammed in refugee camps, fleeing from genocide in Myanmar.

These lovely and affordable cards will be available soon. All proceeds go to the UUSC.
- Advocates for Social Justice
November in RE:

**Chalice Children (Pre-K)**
Preschoolers will learn that our congregation is a place for new friends and old, for families, and for all sorts of different people. They will participate in an activity in which they help create a congregational puzzle, and share a snack with their families on November 25.

**Love Surrounds Us (K-1st Grade)**
Kindergarten and First Graders will learn about love without boundaries this month, focusing on all the different kinds of families that exist in our world. They will reflect on why it is special to be unique as an individual. Finally, they will explore how different religions view “God,” and make chalice sand paintings.

**Love Will Guide Us (2nd-3rd Grades)**
Children will continue to explore science as a Source of our Unitarian Universalist beliefs by learning about taxonomy and natural selection with hands-on classifying and a game about “eating worms.” They will then switch gears and begin playing games and hearing stories to learn about Christian and Jewish teachings as another Source of UU beliefs.

**Bibleodeon (4th-5th Grades)**
Fourth and Fifth Graders will continue to learn stories from the Bible this month, including Abraham, Jacob and Joseph.

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**Spotlight on MUUGs: Crossing Paths with Many Faith Traditions**

What is a MUUG, sometimes referred to as a MUUGle? Great question! Alas, there are no wizarding courses at UUCSR (that I know of). In this context, a MUUGle is a middle school-aged UU.

MUUGs stands for Middle School Unitarian Universalist Gatherings, and is used for both the middle school retreat program through the Pacific Central District and our very own middle school religious education class that meets on Sunday mornings during the early service. This year, UUCSR’s MUUGles are working through a course called Crossing Paths, which explores other faith traditions through the metaphor of backpacking as religious pluralism – many mountains, many paths.

One of the best things about this curriculum is that the youth come out not only having a better understanding of world religions, but about Unitarian Universalism and their own faith. After finishing up Judaism in October, MUUGs will begin exploring Protestant Christianity in November.

MUUGs play the dreidel game while thinking about the four exiles of Judaism.
November 4: YWCA Safe House - provides a refuge in a confidential location for victims of domestic violence and their dependent children fleeing domestic violence. Established in 1977 as one of the 1st domestic shelters in the country, families seeking safety from DV have options.

November 11: The Child Parent Institute—a parent education and children’s mental health agency serving Sonoma County families since 1978, provides continuum of care including child therapy, family resource assistance, and advocacy for family and child-centered policies.

November 18: Worth Our Weight, an apprentice program preparing at-risk youth for work in food service industry for 12 years, has been rendered unsustainable due to the 2017 fires (funding diversion, customer decline, decline in apprentices able to live in area.) Money is needed to pay reasonable severance to alumni, paid staff, and apprentices, and other debts as WOW closes by the end of the year.

November 25: Breakfast For Our Neighbors is our own Saturday Breakfast program, which provides a nutritious breakfast every Saturday for our neighbors in need, in a friendly atmosphere.

December 2: The Living Room’s Mission is to ease adversity and promote stability, dignity, and self-reliance for women and children who are homeless, or at-risk of homelessness, in Sonoma County. They are welcomed into a warm and safe environment with nutritious meals during the day when overnight shelters are closed. Caring staff and volunteers offer a lifeline during a time of crisis.

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A4SJ

ADVOCATES FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

We meet 2nd Mondays, 10 am—12 pm, at UUCSR - Join us! We welcome your participation!

Contact Linda Harlow or visit our table Sundays in the Social Hall.

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Child Parent Institute (CPI)

"Happy Childhoods Last a Lifetime"

Presenters Kim Hunter, Board member; Robin Bowen, Executive Director; and Bob Padecky, Press Democrat journalist and supporter.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11

after 11 AM service in the Room 545

Tragically, reported incidents of child abuse have increased by 35% in the last 12 months. We all recognize that the difference between a childhood haunted by abuse and a happy childhood is profound.

Our guests will tell stories of each situation and describe the vital work of the Child Parent Institute (CPI). The mission of CPI is to end child abuse and strengthen the health of children, parents and families.

Join us on November 11 to learn about the program and structure of this remarkable organization and how you can help.

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The A4SJ Film Project presents our Care in Community Film Series:

CRAZYWISE

Phil Borges and Kevin Tomlinson, filmmakers

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2018

After 11:00 am Service in Boardroom

“Crazy...or wise? The traditional wisdom of indigenous cultures often contradicts modern views about a mental health crisis. Is it a ‘calling’ to grow or just a ‘broken brain’?

The documentary CRAZYWISE explores what can be learned from people around the world who have turned their psychological crisis into a positive transformative experience.

During a quarter-century documenting indigenous cultures, human-rights photographer and filmmaker Phil Borges often saw these cultures identify “psychotic” symptoms as an indicator of shamanic potential...”

[view trailer and read more at https://crazywisefilm.com]

Snacks but not lunch will be provided as well as an after film discussion period.

Elaine, Cassandra, Mary Louise, Carol D., Jeanie

I realize that patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness for anyone.

Edith Clavell, British war Nurse, 4 Dec 1865–12 Oct 1915

Said on the eve of her death by German firing squad, for helping soldiers escape.
PLANNING FOR MARTIN LUTHER KING JR’S DAY
MLK Day – A Day ON Not a Day Off
January 21, 2019

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

Every January people everywhere celebrate Martin Luther King Jr.’s Monday Holiday as an opportunity to live out his words and find ways to serve others in their communities. Locally, Community Baptist Church has kept the flame alive for this day by opening their doors to the wider community and encouraging all kinds of service projects. They want the energy of the UUCSR to join them in making this day a community-wide event.

What kind of service project calls to you? Making meals for the hungry? Offering a skill that you have to those who can’t ordinarily afford it? Visiting the lonely? Encouraging kids in their education? Please join us at the planning committee meetings on November 13 & 27, which may be in person at 6 PM, at the Community Baptist Church, or via web connect. Contact UU members, Carol Kraemer, or Sibyl Day, if you want to share your time and talent in this rewarding way. Stay tuned for how to connect up!

OUR CUUPS GROUP WELCOMES NEW PEOPLE
2ND AND 4TH TUESDAYS, 5-6:30 PM
and their ideas at our Tuesday meetings. Call Lucia Kasulis or Aphrodite.

ONGOING CUUPS DRUM CIRCLES
November 16, December 21.
December 21 is the Solstice - drumming happens with the potluck and celebration of the end of the dark. For information contact: Lucia Kasulis, Aphrodite Bellochio. Blessed Be!

UUCSR WINTER SOLSTICE SERVICE
FRIDAY DECEMBER 21ST, EVENING
SAVE THE DATE!!
Put December 21 on your calendar for the annual Winter Solstice service. This is a family-friendly event with great potluck food, drumming for all, and a celebration of the Sun we all need in the depths of long winter days. Blessed Be!

2019 Annual Women’s Retreat May 3-May 5
Don’t make other plans – Our Annual Spring Retreat at Saint Dorothy’s Rest will be May 3rd through 5th.

Amazing Book: Sacred Instructions, by Sherri Mitchell
A narrative of Indigenous wisdom that provides a road map for the spirit and a compass of compassion for humanity. Drawing from ancestral knowledge, as well as her experience as an attorney and activist, Sherri Mitchell addresses some of the most crucial issues of our day, such as environmental protection and human rights. Sharing the gifts she has received from elders around the world, Mitchell urges us to decolonize our language and our stories. For those seeking change, this book offers a set of cultural values that will preserve our collective survival for future generations.

IN MEMORIUM
BARBARA GLASER
February 27, 1926 — October 15, 2018
Memorial Service Sunday, November 18, 2:00 pm in Sanctuary

Barbara Glaser was a pillar of this congregation for more than two decades. She was a very intelligent and very funny human being, who will be missed by all who knew her. The extraordinary generosity of the Glasers enabled the congregation to move downtown and thus grow in so many ways. Hence, this building was named for her and her husband Jules. He is now at rest in our Memorial Garden, another one of his gifts to our community. Barbara will also be laid there on the day of her memorial service, which is scheduled for 2:00 on Sunday, November 18 in the Sanctuary of the Glaser Center. I hope to see you there.

Barbara Glaser died at her caregiver’s house late Monday evening, just moments before her daughter Martha arrived. Martha’s children and Reverend Chris arrived very soon thereafter. Prayers were said, and we bid her body good-bye. It was an easy and peaceful passing.

Cards to Barbara’s children, Martha and Rob, and her grandchildren can go care of Martha at: Martha Glaser, 7427 Hayden Ave, Sebastopol, CA 95472. Thank you all for being a caring community to so many people. And thank you, Barbara, for your life!
What’s That Date You’ve Been Waiting For?
THANKSGIVING? NEW YEAR’S? NO!

IT’S THE ANNUAL AUCTION PARTY!
Nuestra Fiesta / Our Party
MARCH 2, 2019
You’re Invited—So Get Ready, Save The Date

UUCSR’s Annual Auction Party celebrates each other, and our mutual caring, with color, lights, good food and music. A Fiesta to remember! Whether in Mexico or Spain or Santa Rosa, joy springs from being together. A fiesta is a celebration of something we value most: Our community!

Who? All UUCSR members and friends. You don’t need to have a large income, a good-looking date, musical talent or elegant rags (although bright colors are welcome).

MAINTENANCE TEAM WORK DAY
Saturday, November 3, 9:00 am-12:00 pm
Work Day! Please come help with gardening and minor repairs and improvements 9 am to Noon.

SPECIAL MOVING DAY FOR OFFICE
Saturday, November 10
We need some strong bodies to help move furniture around in the offices in a major rearrangement.

WOMEN TOGETHER FALL RETREAT
November 3, Saturday
All UU women and friends are invited to our annual 1-Day Retreat on Saturday, November 3rd, from 10 am to 3 pm at Friends House, 684 Benicia Drive in Santa Rosa. This is particularly suitable for women who find St. Dorothy’s Rest hard to navigate and those who can’t be away for a whole weekend. Also for those of us who enjoy getting together for a relaxed and fun day! We have small group discussions on a theme in the morning, games and conversation in the afternoon. Please bring a lunch dish to share. Questions? Linda Harlow.

Old Age Is Not For Sissies
November 12 and 26
10:30 am. In UUCSR Green Room
A Group For Women Congregants 80 and over. Are you one of us? We are meeting in the Green Room at 10:30 a.m.

When? March 2nd. Doors open at 4:30. The wine bar and bidding open then as well.

Let’s All Join Together to Make This a Success.

Why? Making this a successful fundraiser depends on you. Our Annual Auction is the best opportunity to enjoy each other’s company in a party atmosphere—and, help fund our mission at UUCSR.

• Be thinking about what you have to donate. Everyone has something to donate: a talent, a treasure or an event of some sort. Hosted events have been especially popular. Donation forms will soon be available.

• Ask a business that you frequent for a donation. Businesses are used to such requests and it is good advertising for them. We’ll have solicitation letters available soon that tell about UUCSR and give donores our Tax ID for their records.

• Volunteer to work at the event. Believe it or not, it takes around 50 volunteers to run this event, but most jobs take up only a small part of the evening. If you can help, e-mail Dee Ray.

Thanks! Linda Lambert

Every second and fourth Monday morning. Coffee service starts at 10:00 a.m. Need a ride? Please call well ahead of meeting date. Questions? Call: Phyllis Clement, Dorris Lee, or Shirley White.

FAITH AND FITNESS
November 17, Saturday 9:30 am — ...

For November we hike Pioneer Tree Trail, Samuel P. Taylor State Park. Just shy of three miles, we hike first along Lagunitas Creek, then a make gentle climb through redwood and mixed forest finally looping back down to our starting point. We should still have some yellow maples to admire, as well as other signs of fall and (hopefully) the return of the rainy season. Carpool from Santa Rosa 9:30, Petaluma 10:00, starting from the trail head 10:45. Get detailed directions and sign up to Gretchen P. Be sure to bring water and lunches!

SHARE-THE-BASKET
We split our Weekly Offering. Our social action committee, Advocates for Social Justice selects a program, with congregational input, to receive a special donation from our Congregation.

Following are the JULY—AUGUST Recipients
Thank You for Your Generosity!

| JUL   | Live Music Lantern   | $378.68 |
| JUL   | Housing Connection   | $495.36 |
| JUL   | MLK Day on NOT a Day Off (Community Baptist Church) | $445.84 |
| JUL   | Breakfast for our Neighbors | $432.29 |
| JUL   | SSU Alianza for Equity Fund | $513.54 |
| AUG   | Interlink (Goodwill)  | $424.47 |
| AUG   | Recourse Mediation    | $417.64 |
| AUG   | Disability Services & Legal Center | $407.77 |
| AUG   | Breakfast for our Neighbors | $541.63 |

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• Be thinking about what you have to donate. Everyone has something to donate: a talent, a treasure or an event of some sort. Hosted events have been especially popular. Donation forms will soon be available.

• Ask a business that you frequent for a donation. Businesses are used to such requests and it is good advertising for them. We’ll have solicitation letters available soon that tell about UUCSR and give donores our Tax ID for their records.

• Volunteer to work at the event. Believe it or not, it takes around 50 volunteers to run this event, but most jobs take up only a small part of the evening. If you can help, e-mail Dee Ray.

Thanks! Linda Lambert

Every second and fourth Monday morning. Coffee service starts at 10:00 a.m. Need a ride? Please call well ahead of meeting date. Questions? Call: Phyllis Clement, Dorris Lee, or Shirley White.

FAITH AND FITNESS
November 17, Saturday 9:30 am — ...

For November we hike Pioneer Tree Trail, Samuel P. Taylor State Park. Just shy of three miles, we hike first along Lagunitas Creek, then a make gentle climb through redwood and mixed forest finally looping back down to our starting point. We should still have some yellow maples to admire, as well as other signs of fall and (hopefully) the return of the rainy season. Carpool from Santa Rosa 9:30, Petaluma 10:00, starting from the trail head 10:45. Get detailed directions and sign up to Gretchen P. Be sure to bring water and lunches!

SHARE-THE-BASKET
We split our Weekly Offering. Our social action committee, Advocates for Social Justice selects a program, with congregational input, to receive a special donation from our Congregation.

Following are the JULY—AUGUST Recipients
Thank You for Your Generosity!
From Reverend Dara...

“It’s a joy for me to serve as your Assistant Minister, to support the extension and growth of UUCSR’s mission. I’m moved by how UUCSR is growing in spirit and in visionary ways!

Recently, I had an opportunity to visit and learn with students in a psychology class at Sonoma State who shared with me some of their questions and interest in Unitarian Universalism. I continue to spend time getting more familiar with the hopes and yearning of the congregation, and of folks between the ages of 18-25 within and beyond UUCSR.

Last month at UUCSR’s Town Hall meeting we talked a bit about “Campus Ministry,” as well as in/outreach to “young adults.” I welcomed folks to consider hopes and dreams regarding “campus ministry” and ministry serving folks in particular 18-35(ish) years of age. Some of what I heard from our congregation:

“Give encouragement to those lost, lonely, and desperate.”
“Increase awareness of UUism.”
“Help grow connection between different generations.”
“Embrace people in community.”
“Help “turn the tide of hate, help foster healthy communities.”
“Welcome energy and enthusiasm at UUCSR.”
“Offer more than Sunday morning opportunities to connect.”
“Support UU campus groups.”
“Introduce different ways of thinking about religion.”
“Support spaces for solitude and quiet (meditation) to regenerate the ability to continue.”
“Support for exploring relationships and sexuality in affirming, respectful ways.”
“Support career and life goals.”
Consider “avenues of accessibility for non-campus folks.”
“A group of younger people who want to build a better world would be future leaders.”
“Use social media to reach out and have a “beginning” dialog with young adults who are not in college.”
Connect around social justice efforts!
“UUCSR could become well-known among local young adults as a resource for deep soul work.”

Look out for more opportunities to share thoughts and ideas. I welcome you to be in touch! Please feel free to email me at assistantminister@uusantarosa.org. And, this month, as attention towards initiating “campus ministry” and more intentional outreach/in-reach to young adults continues, I invite folks of all ages to consider this: Why do you think intentionally reaching out to college age students, and folks between the ages of 18-25 (who are not necessarily in college) meaningful to you? Why does this matter?

Allow me to share with you some of my own answers to these questions: I believe the future involves people of all ages! We're all in this together. College students yearn for meaning-making, spiritual renewal, and support for facing the difficult practical ethical and moral challenges of life — same as everyone else! Desire for community and belongingness is present at every age! In today’s world, there are plenty of ideologies and philosophies varying for people’s time and attention. Not all of them are liberating. Not all are life-giving. Certainly not all affirm the fullness of people’s lives and complex, intersectional identities. In fact, some ideologies are even peddling hatred and fear! Unitarian Universalism’s radically affirming sense of love and affirmation, stance for pluralism, and liberating sense of theological inquiry is valuable. In short, and to be unabashedly universalist about it, I believe we’re all in this together — past, present, and future.

Warmly & With Care, Rev. Dara

YOUR CARING COMMITTEE

Your Caring Committee representatives want to talk with you after the service on Sundays. You can find our committee table as you exit the sanctuary after the service - just to the left.

We need you to let us know if a congregation member or friend has emergency needs, so that we can figure out how we can best help. We would also like to talk with you if you would like to donate odd bits of time to help with rides, visits or whatever is needed to help out in an emergency.

Phyllis Clement, for the Caring Committee.

COMMITTEE ON SHARED MINISTRY

So, how’s our minister doin’?

It’s a question the Committee for Shared Ministry asks the congregation every year. That question implies sub-questions: Do we find the Sunday services inspiring, thoughtful, challenging, etc? ... how’s communication? ... organization? ... pastoral care? ... outreach? ... community involvement? ... and so on.

We don’t ask every single member about their feelings toward Rev. Chris and his works. We try a variety of different schemes every year. We’ve put a questionnaire on line. We’ve polled staff and committee chairs. We’ve interviewed selected members of the congregation.

These last two is what we did this year. We, being highly trained pollsters (not), took the rigorously scientific strategy of starting at the top of the page and choosing every 6th member in the directory. Each committee member took 6 or 7 of these names for interviews. This way we gauged the congregational assessment and will present a report to the Board of Trustees after the first of the year.

By early November, the interviews will be completed and the report in progress. If you’re disappointed you didn’t get to have your say, talk to any of the committee members below, at any time and your concerns will be addressed. Lucia Milburn (Chair), Bob Anderson, Susan Bartholome, Alan Bell, Frances Corman, Kitty Wells

Thank you for letting me say a few words about Ted Miller

I met Ted at the Fellowship at Todd Road and Stony Point 20 years ago. Ted was involved in the move to 547 Mendocino and all of the phases that followed: demolition work before the remodel that saved an estimated $10,000, and he was a key member of the Construction Management Team that interfaced with the general contractor during the remodel. After our move-in he proposed, organized, and Chaired the first Maintenance Committee. Ted was also a hands-on guy. He knew and worked on the building from top to bottom; from electrical repair to the underground sump pump installation in the courtyard to sealing roof vents, and in between, assembling IKEA cabinets, installing acoustic panels in the sanctuary to assembling the pews. And don’t forget his legal skills which were used in contract reviews and other matters.

On Sundays you could see Ted manning the Scrip Table, and counting the service offering. Certainly a multi-talented guy.

At my surprise 80th birthday party here my kids got Ted to bring me in on a ruse of a meeting.

Thank you Thaddeus for the years of working together, at my age memories are cherished, thanks again for the many you have given me.

Bud Willis
**Treasurer’s Monthly Ledger**

*We’ve reached the first quarter of our new fiscal year.* For the month of September, we received $33,800 from all sources of income, and expensed $48,200, so we’re down about ($14,400) for the month. **Pledges are running ($13,300) below budget for the month.** Year-to-date, we have a deficit of ($16,300) from combined Operations and Glaser Center. Our culprit for losses YTD is lower than expected payment of revenue from pledges, and less than stellar performance from Glaser Center. **On the upside, we are spending about $7,700 less than budgeted year-to-date.** Let’s hope April sees a resurgence from pledges and Glaser Center rentals. **We not yet in a 3-alarm fire, as it is early in the year, but it’s not the best year we have had in a long time.** Wish I had better news.

I rereiterate — we have added expenses this year due to costs associated with replacing Janis, as well as the new hire of an Assistant Minister, and higher employee costs, especially with healthcare and merit increases; therefore, the current new Fiscal Year is looking unhealthy, so I urge all members to reconsider their current pledges, and while about 25% of our members have generously increased their pledge amounts; we need greater participation from the Congregation.

Let’s strive to achieve 100% participation — no matter the amount you contribute — every bit helps.

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**Musical Notes**

October’s highlight was the Musicians Showcase on Saturday the 27th, much anticipated and long delayed (because of the 2017 wildfires). This was a fund-raiser for our music ministry. Twenty-nine musicians performed 21 numbers. Tickets purchased for the canceled show last year were honored, and purchases (or re-purchases) of new tickets were greatly appreciated!

November’s theme is Gratitude.

On the 4th we show gratitude for our wounds as Billy Sue Fisher sings “First You Cry” by Percy Sledge.

The Choir, led by Sadie Sonntag, will sing on Veterans Day as we honor our veterans. November 18th we examine a “thanks for nothing” attitude coordinated by Paul Gilger.

And on the 25th, the Choir is back with some ideas about whom to be grateful to. Rehearsals for all of this special music are underway. Just wait till you hear what we’ve been up to!

If any of this marvelous musical ministry inspires you, talk to a Music Coordinator or Choir Director Sadie to find out how to lend your voice or musical instrument to the mix.

- Randy Jones

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**Fiscally yours, Michael Randolph, Treasurer**

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**Other Music at the Glaser Center**

**California Redwood Chorale**

Sunday, November 25, 2:30 at Glaser Center

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**Occidental Community Choir**

Sunday, December 9, 3 pm at Glaser Center

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Occidental Community Choir celebrates their 40th anniversary—Skillfully weaving together song and story, poetry and theatrics, plus fine instrumental accompaniment, offering a joyful and eclectic holiday concert experience unlike any other you will find in Sonoma County or beyond. Local Yokels Love Our Vocals! Find out why!

[Reservations recommended Occidentalchoir.org/tickets]
A Season of Thanks......and Giving!!
Greetings from your Endowment Committee

As Unitarian Universalists, we are generally a positive, thankful and grateful bunch all the time, but the month of the November is special, as it contains the actual holiday of Thanksgiving. Despite the terrible fires from a year ago, we still have much to be thankful for over the past year, including fantastic bequests from Legacy Circle members Gail Alford and Jack Marcarian, among others. With Gail’s very generous gift, we now (as of September 30) have a balance of over $458,000 in our Endowment Fund!!

As a reminder, the Legacy Circle is the group of UUCSR members who have arranged for a contribution to be made to UUCSR upon their passing. And we are very excited that we have made a lot of progress recruiting new members over the past year or so. We are currently at 89 members, and that is up from the mid-40’s in early 2017. We have a goal of reaching 100 members by December 31.

The Legacy Circle is very easy to join, and you don’t have to have “big bucks” – in fact, any amount is greatly appreciated. One quick and easy way to join is to make UUCSR a beneficiary in an IRA or 401-K, if you have one. Just call your investment advisor or go online and make a change to your beneficiaries. For example, if you have two children who are your beneficiaries currently, and it is split 50%/50%, then you just lower their percentages by whatever percentage and add UUCSR as a third beneficiary at whatever percentage amount you choose. There are other ways too, including specific bequests of money or other items made directly in your will and/or trust, and then there are other, more complicated options that are too much for this article.... You then just tell us that you have done this (added UUCSR as a beneficiary or whatever), and you are IN the Legacy Circle!! We trust you!! And you get all the good feelings that go along with knowing you are a member of a group of UUCSR members who care a lot about the future of our congregation!!

Whatever you decide, we would LOVE to have you in the Legacy Circle, and wouldn’t it be great to be one of the people that helps us achieve our goal of 100 members by December 31? Please contact me, or any of our other Endowment Committee members – Michael Randolph, Mary Lil Lee, Susan Dickey, Robin Rodgers, or Helga Lemke, with any questions.

Gratefully yours, Reid Stinnett, Endowment Committee Chair