From the Minister’s Study

Love is the doctrine of this church, the quest for truth a sacrament, and service is its prayer.

Summer is drawing to a close. School is back in session and church is back in full swing. This yearly pattern is slightly different here in Tucson than in other places. Many Unitarian Universalist congregations mark the end of summer and the beginning of a new church year with an ingathering service, often with the celebration of water communion. It’s a time for coming back together. It’s a time to reaffirm the covenant that holds us together.

What I’ve found to be true here is that our congregation kind of trickles back from summer vacations and activities. It isn’t easy to mark a discrete new beginning, a time when we are gathered as one strong body to reaffirm the bond of covenant. Our water communion service will be on Sunday, September 8 this year. I hope that as many of you as possible will attend.

Unitarian Universalism is a non-creedal faith. We are bound together not by common beliefs but by the covenants, or the agreements we make with one another. The words that begin this article are a recasting of the covenant adopted by our American liberal religious forebears who settled in New England. They came in search of a place where they could practice their religion openly and freely.

Creeds are about beliefs. Covenants are about behavior. When entered into with the right spirit and intent, covenants can be a means for personal spiritual growth.

The thing about covenants is that they are ultimately unenforceable. No higher authority is going to hand out punishments or consequences for being “out of covenant.”

It’s easy to notice when someone else is “out of covenant,” harder to note and to admit when we ourselves have stepped outside the lines. When we use a covenant to measure the behavior of another person rather than our own, we end up disempowering ourselves. After all, the only person’s behavior we have any degree of control over is our own.

Measuring one’s own behavior against covenantal agreements gives the opportunity to self-monitor, self-correct, and to exercise self-forgiveness and self-discipline. These practices are self-empowering. They lead to greater emotional and spiritual maturity. The added benefit is that they also lead to a more harmonious church community.

My summer vacation was a restful and fruitful time. I hope yours was, too. I’m glad to be back among you, beginning my eighth year of ministry with you. It’s an honor to walk together with you in the ways of service and love. This is our greatest covenant.

Looking forward to seeing you in church,
Diane
Upcoming Services:

Sunday, September 1, 10:30am
Practice Our Preach- YRUU Service
Extended Family Worship
Worship Associate: Celeste Rogers

Sunday, September 8, 10:30am
Rev. Diane Dowgiert
The One That Comes From Many
Just as an ocean is made of many drops of water, our community of faith is made of many individuals. Our Annual Water Communion will celebrate individuality and unity. Bring a small amount of water that represents the blessings you offer to our community.
Worship Associate: Randall Springer
Music: Desert Chorale

Sunday, September 15, 10:30am
Rev. Diane Dowgiert
A Religion for One World
Is it possible that religion could unite rather than divide our world? We’ll explore the visionary work of Kenneth Patton for inspiration. Patton was a Universalist minister during the latter part of the twentieth century. His ministry changed the meaning of “Universalism,” by bringing the arts of all religions and cultures into what he believed could truly be a religion for one world.
Worship Associate: Terence Sheridan

Sunday, September 22, 10:30am
Changing Lives Through Music: Reveille Men’s Chorus, Tucson's internationally recognized men's chorus now in its 19th season, will be our guests. Reveille is dedicated to musical excellence and performs worldwide to promote human rights, diversity and a world free of AIDS. Reveille continues to change lives through music via its community outreach, volunteer work and musical productions filled with humor and heart. Come hear Reveille sing to us; come sing to Reveille.
Pulpit Host: Stephen Kraynak

Wednesday, September 25, 7:00pm
Mid-week Alternative Worship

Sunday, September 29, 10:30am
Rev. Diane Dowgiert
Unitarian Universalism is Dead. Long Live Unitarian Universalism
Worship Associate: Celeste Rogers

Annual Yard Sale
Donations to the October 4, 5, & 6 combined book, plant and yard sale are needed. As you clean out, please save jewelry, collectibles/antiques, small appliances in working order, kitchen/bathroom items, plants/pots, garden tools, camping supplies, clean clothing and especially, books. Large ticket donations, such as furniture for inside and outdoors sell well. You may bring boxes, marked “Yard Sale,” to the church on Sundays and place them in Goddard Hall. Or, kindly store items until the week of the sale. Please begin plant clippings now. You may put suggested prices on some items, however, clothing and books will have established prices.

A truck and car will be available to help with picking up items for the sale. To ensure you are on the schedule, call Beth (881-0633). Volunteer in Goddard after church, or call Beth. Set-up will start on Tuesday, October 1 and continue on October 2 and 3.

No More Deaths Cds Still Available
If you want to buy another copy of the 2 CD set of "Border Songs" for a friend or family member (or get a head start on your holiday shopping), they are now available at UUCT.
All of the money goes to save lives in the desert and each CD set provides 29 gallon bottles of water.

UUCT Book Club
Book Club meets the third Thursday of each month in the Awareness room at 7pm. All are welcome. For questions, or to arrange free childcare, call Lois Atkins 991-5350.

UUCT Book Club Selections Sept. – Dec. 2013

September - The New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander
October - Where We Belong by Emily Griffin
November - My Beloved World by Sonia Sotomayor
December - The Boy Kings of Texas by Domingo Martinez
**Assaults on Women in Uniform in Tucson**
**Thursday, Sept. 12, 2013  7 to 9 PM**

Michelle Maliniak, Twenty-two year veteran firefighter
Natalie Mendoza, Army Corrections and SWAT veteran
Glorimar Rogers Alvarez, Tucson Border Patrol Agent

These three experienced professional women will discuss gender based discrimination against women in uniform, assaults on their persons and privacy, as well as tax-funded support for the perpetrators of these assaults. Group discussion will follow the presentation.

Co-sponsored by Tucson WILPF* and the UU Church of Tucson
(*The Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom)
For childcare, please contact Heather Reed at hreed@uuctucson.org.

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**New Discussion Course: Menu for the Future**

The way we grow, harvest, transport and consume food today has changed significantly and has had an impact on our environment. In this six week discussion course we read materials from the Northwest Earth Institute which will spark shared learning, stories and actions. Mondays at 6:30 pm starting September 23. Cost $30 per person or $35 per couple sharing the book. Childcare is available upon request.

Questions: contact course organizers Chris Wallace, lemmonhiker@gmail.com or Jessica Erickson, justjessiee@yahoo.com. Pick up a flyer and sign up at the Lifespan Faith Development table in the back of Goddard Hall on Sunday.

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**Ushers Still Needed**

Please consider being an Usher for your church! This job is an honor and does not take much time. Currently, we are in need of Ushers for the second and third Sundays of the month. We also need substitutes.

Please consider becoming part of this wonderful team. Please contact Mary Wiese if you are interested: mwiese@uuctucson.org

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**UUCT September Artist of the Month**
**Gallery presents:**
**The Paintings of Alexandria Winslow**

The opening reception for Alexandria Winslow will be on September 1st at 11:45 AM in Holland Hall. An award winning artist, she is known for her bright and whimsical paintings and wall art. Refreshments will be served. The Gallery is also open during church office hours, 9-1 PM Wednesday through Friday, on Tuesday, by appointment only, and Sunday, 11:30-1 PM. The show runs through Sunday, October 3rd.

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**PIT Crew Comes to UUCT**
**By Carolyn Saunders**

The Pit Crew is coming! That is, the People Involvement Team. The mission of this team is to foster an environment where opportunities for service to the church are widely known and the talents of members and friends are effectively used in fulfilling the UUCT mission.

It will be a one year pilot project that David Burks and I have volunteered to lead. On one level we will simply attempt to match skills and talents of people with volunteer activities.

However, on a deeper level, by focusing on how each of us can best utilize our talents, we can all come to a better understanding of how our service is an expression of our UU faith and principles. All volunteer jobs, whether large or small, can help our congregation move forward in our effort to create positive change in ourselves, our community and our world.

So the Pit Crew will be working to collect, organize and disseminate information on opportunities and resources for service at UUCT. But you, the members and friends of UUCT, will be the drivers of this project. Your talents are the fuel needed to keep us moving forward.

If you would like more information about the Pit Crew and ways you can become involved, contact Carolyn and David at c_saunders1@msn.com. Watch for more articles and notices about what is needed to make this church year the most fulfilling year ever. It is time to rev it up!
Interfaith Community Services (ICS) info

Did you know that UUCT is one of 70+ faith communities in Tucson that partners with ICS? The mission of ICS is “To help Pima County seniors, individuals with disabilities and people in financial crisis achieve stable and independent lives through programs and services supported by staff, diverse faith communities and the community at large.”

If you would like to learn more about ICS, or if you are interested in volunteering or receiving services, check out their website (www.icstucson.org) or talk to Office Manager Ashley Davis, who volunteers as the ICS Liaison for UUCT. The following excerpt if from the ICS newsletter:

**FREE WORKSHOP CONTINUES ON STRENGTHENING FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS:** Want to achieve more peace and harmony in your family life? This free program, offered every **Tuesday evening 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. from September 24 through November 5 at Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church (210 Lester Street)**, is for parents and/or caregivers and their children ages 10-14 to participate in together. The workshop will cover how to improve family relationships, build parenting skills, and reduce youth behavioral, academic and social problems. **For more information and to register, contact Tandala Kidd at ICS at 297-6049.** Registration accepted until October 1.

Alliance News

Now that we’ve moved our magazines back to Goddard, we find that we’re very low in most categories. So we’re asking all you faithful people to bring us your recent (last 3 months) magazines for our low-cost recycling program. Thanks to all of you for your generosity and also to Marsha White for picking up the older magazines and recycling them to doctor and hospital waiting rooms.

Marcia Schenck & Kristine Maish

Transitions Support Group Starts Sept 18

Please join us for the inception of the UUCT Transitions Support Group. This is a covenant style support group to provide education and support to our elders who have serious health and life challenges. The group will meet every 3rd Wednesday at 1:30pm to 3pm in Emerson. Contact Roger Steenland (steenlandrogann@live.com) for more information.

Wingspan, Tucson's LGBTQ community center, is starting a support group for adult women who are questioning their sexuality. The group is free and anonymous. We welcome all who identify as women and seek support regarding questions of sexual orientation. For information, please contact Tara Ernst, Programs Manager, at 520-624-1779, ext. 127, or ternst@wingspan.org.

Circle Suppers

Coming soon to a supper table near you on the second Friday of each month, beginning in September. Unstructured discussions with the topic chosen by the month’s supper host are the main attraction to these gatherings. Circle Suppers are small dinner groups which provide an opportunity to get to know each other better and to create more bonded relationships among the people in our congregation. Sign up at the table in Goddard after service. If you have further questions or would like to help with coordinating the suppers, contact: Cheryl Blake- 623-7096, ekblake1@aol.com Sandy Ongley 465-9082, andraongley@msn.com

THANK YOUS!

Member Margo Newhouse has done an outstanding job of beautifying Goddard Hall! She coordinated the painting, made the beautiful white drapes, table covers, and freezer cover, and brought the colorful flower centerpieces that brighten our Sunday coffee hour in Goddard Hall. Your efforts have enhanced our Sunday mornings together and made our hall so attractive for groups that rent our space. Thank you so much, Margo!!

Newsletter Deadline

The Tucsonitarian deadlines are the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month and the print dates are the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month. The next deadline is Tuesday, September 3rd, with a print date of Wednesday, September 11th.