From the Minister’s Study
“There must be a religion for greatness to meet the need of the time.” Clarence Skinner (1881-1949) Universalist scholar, teacher and minister

vortex: a mass of spinning air, liquid, etc., that pulls things into its center

This winter has been long and hard in so many ways. From all appearances, it won’t be letting up anytime soon. I spent the month of February on the east coast where winter descended with a vengeance. A polar vortex added bitter cold to raging storms of snow and ice. People there scratched their heads when they learned that I was visiting from Arizona where temperatures are near ninety degrees.

Then, the Arizona legislature passed SB 1062, which, if signed into law, would make it legal for businesses to discriminate against gays and lesbians, based on religious belief. All of a sudden, people couldn’t understand why I would want to go back.

A vortex of a different kind has descended on Arizona, one that is just as chilling as this east coast winter: the iciness of cold-heartedness. Though some would call it a vortex of hate, I believe it’s more accurate to call it a vortex of fear. Fear is the ground in which hatred grows.

To my way of thinking, religious justification for discrimination is a misuse of religion. It’s like the wolf in sheep’s clothing, masquerading as something he’s not in order to hide his ill intent.

Religion, used properly, moves us beyond our fears and calls us to our better selves, seeking not what divides us but what unites us.

What is needed in our time is a vortex of love. Love is a unifying force, an antidote to fear. Love warms our cold hearts, even in the midst of winter.

A religion for greatness stands on the side of love, which is what we are being called to do again and again in Arizona and everywhere else where fear and hatred grow.

This winter will rage on. We are fighting centuries of religious teachings that conditioned people to fear the other and to fear difference. When the spring comes --and it will come -- our task will not end, pulling up roots of fear, planting seeds of love, growing a religion for greatness.

Yours,
Diane

Upcoming Services:
Sunday, March 9, 10:30 am
Rev. Diane Dowgiert
To Hope or Not to Hope
Hope springs eternal, or so the saying goes. While hope is an important concept in Christianity, Buddhist teacher Pema Chodron argues against hope because it takes us out of the present moment. To hope or not to hope: that is the question we’ll take up today.
Worship Associate: Terence Sheridan
Music: Desert Chorale and Leeza Beriyeva

Sunday, March 16, 10:30 am
Rev. Diane Dowgiert
The Power of Ordinary Things
Our lives are filled with useful objects that help us get through our days. These everyday objects can also become tools for positive change and transformation. All that’s required is a little creativity and some determination.
Worship Associate: Carolyn Saunders
Music: Leeza Beriyeva

Sunday, March 23, 10:30 am
Rev. Diane Dowgiert and Brenda Lundt
Wellspring
What gets you through when the going gets tough? What deep wells do you draw from for sustenance, nurture, encouragement, and inspiration? Brenda and Rev. Diane will share reflections on how we might tap the deep wellsprings of Unitarian Universalism in our congregation and in our lives.
Worship Associate: Walker Smith
Music: Desert Chorale and Leeza Beriyeva

Wednesday, March 26, 7:00pm
Rev. Diane Dowgiert, Brian Moon, Kathleen Hogue, & Mary Wiese
Mid-week Alternative Worship - Equinox
We’ll greet the new season with some traditional rites of Spring.

Sunday, March 30, 10:30 am
Guest Speaker: Dan Kruse
Worship Associate: Brian Moon
Music: Leeza Beriyeva
**Lifespan Faith Development- submitted by Kathleen Hogue**

**What is Happening in RE for Children & Youth?**

“Joy, sorrow, tears, lamentation, laughter—to all these music gives voice, but in such a way that we are transported from the world of unrest to a world of peace, and see reality in a new way.”

-Albert Schweitzer

I share this quote with you because this is the foundation of what our children are working on to prepare a service they will be bringing to you on May 18th. On the Sundays we are all together we work on music, instruments, and activities in our class titled “Kids Making Music.” Each group is working on some component of the service which will include some great music that connects us to our UU Principles. If you have children in our program, please pick up a CD that has the songs to practice. If anyone is interested in working with us please contact me. If you are a member or friend of the church, please commit to being there on May 18th for what is sure to be a fabulous service.

**What is Happening in Adult Faith Development?**

Circle Suppers are a big hit! Who knew that UUs liked to eat and talk? People are making connections with one another that they never knew before this program started. We are sharing recipes, ideas about family, relationships, work and life with one another. If you are not in a Circle Supper you are really missing out. Contact Cheryl Blake Ckblakel@aol.com to join. This is only one of the programs we have for adults. You can pick up a ministries book in the church foyer of to find out about all our programs.

**What is Happening in Social Justice?**

Members of UUCT and 12 other UU churches in Arizona practice the 5th UU Principle: The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large by participating in UU Day at the Legislature on February 17th. How awesome it was to meet and talk with our leaders!

UUCT and our sister congregation MVUU came together at the Peace Fair to practice and demonstrate our 6th Principle: The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all. This was exciting to see as we all promoted our different causes from environmental issues to immigration, while still supporting one another with the understanding that we are all in this together.

**What is coming up in LFD?**

**Envisioning Social Justice at UUCT: Saturday, March 8.**

The congregation is invited to meet with Rev. Lisa McDaniel-Hutchings and Paul Mitchell from UUJAZ to envision a more inclusive and cohesive social justice program at UUCT. Join us to share your story of the values that call you to act for a more just world. 9-12 Lunch to follow. Please RSVP Lisa@uujaz.org.

**Help Save Migrant Lives in the Desert With Food Packs!**

UUCT will be collecting food items during March for No More Deaths to distribute to migrants at the NMD desert camps. Then we'll have a multigenerational food packing party on Sunday, March 30, after the service.

A list of the types of foods to donate can be found at www.nomoredeaths.org/donations (or pick up a flyer at church). Please bring these food items to the box labeled "NMD Migrant Food Drive" in the front lobby anytime in March. To sign up for the Food Packing Party please contact Betsy McMillan at betsymcmillan@comcast.net.

**TUUR**

Join UUCT once again as we tour Tour Durango, Mesa Verde, Zuni lands, Hopi lands, and surrounding areas. The tour departs October 11th and returns October 18th via motorcoach from UUCT. The tour capacity is 24 and spaces are filling up rapidly! See the brochure and itinerary at this location: http://www.uuctucson.org/programs/sponsored-tours.html

Itineraries and registration forms are available at the office, on line, or from Julia Mehrer at perujourney@gainbroadband.com.
‘Artist of the Month’ Gallery’s March Show: The Sculptures, Weavings, and Paintings by Trudy Heeb

The opening reception for Trudy Heeb, will be on March 9th at 11:45 am in Holland Sanctuary. Trudy was born in Switzerland and trained at the Zurich School for Arts and Crafts. She works with a wide range of materials and her creations range from cloth and wire sculptures to weavings to paintings. Come meet Trudy and enjoy her unique visions. Refreshments will be served. The Gallery is also open during church office hours, 9-1 pm Tuesday through Friday and on Sunday, 11:30-1 pm. The show runs through Sunday, April 6th.

SHARE THE PLATE

Share the Plate (STP) Sunday is the third Sunday of each month. On that day (March 16), UUCT shares half of the non-pledge income with a local non-profit organization. March’s STP recipient is Watershed Management Group (WMG).

WMG develops community-based solutions to ensure the long-term prosperity of people and health of the environment. They provide people with the knowledge, skills, and resources for sustainable livelihoods.

The Group envisions a world in which everyone has the natural resources they need while ensuring adequate resources for future generations through wise and creative management; communities cooperatively and sustainably manage the natural resources within their watershed; communities develop in concert with their environment, and the success of development is measured by the health of ecological systems, the prosperity of people, and the strength of communities.

You can learn more by going to their website: http://www.watershedmg.org/

HEALTH MINISTRY TEAM presents at 12:30 March 16th on the patio. "Sound and Music - Tools for Meditation and Healing." Celeste Rogers, singer, harpist, and Certified Music Practitioner will share some simple ways to use sound and music to feel better physically and emotionally. No musical experience required!

Roy Zimmerman Concert

Roy Zimmerman has brought the sting of satire to the struggle for social justice for twenty odd years. And they've been twenty ODD years. He'll be doing a concert at UUCT on Sunday, March 16th as part of his "Blue Dot Tour," and he'll have CDs available in the Fellowship Hall after the service.

Come to the Cabaret!!!

Cabaret is an annual fundraiser sponsored by the musicians of the church. In addition to music, there has been dancing, comedy and magic... each year is a surprise of fun and fellowship!

Cabaret will be on Saturday, April 5th at 7:00pm. Childcare will be provided. Light snacks and beverages will be available, and adult beverages provided for an additional fee. Tickets cost $10 per person, or $25 per family.

If you are interested in performing, please contact Brian Moon by March 29th.

The Transitions Group meets every third Wednesday from 1:30 to 3pm in Emmerson. Come join us for support through difficult life challenges, and for some fun!. Please contact Michelle Maliniak for more information.

Join the Limbo Crowd- Young Adults (18-35 years) are invited to attend our newly established young adult group each 1st and 3rd Sunday 12:15PM to 1:30PM in the Blackwell Room. Childcare available.

THE BOOK CLUB NEEDS MORE MEMBERS TO STAY VIABLE. Meets in the Awareness Room, on third Thursdays of the month at 7PM. Free childcare. One person leads and everyone expresses their thoughts and choose and vote on what we read. "The Pick Up” by Nadine Gordimer. Questions call, Lois 991-5350.
**Annual Auction a Great Success**

Our February 1 auction was a success by every measure: good food, live music, lots of fun and fellowship, and.....we took in nearly $10,000 for the church.

It wouldn't have happened without the following folks:

- Auction Committee: Jan Dowling, Janie Foy, Bob Gordon, Janet Moore, Margo Newhouse, Margie Richards, Carolyn Saunders

- Church Staff: Jesus Carillo, Ashley Davis, Brian Moon, Mary Wiese


Apologies to anyone we've omitted (the danger with naming everyone.)

Please think about getting involved with this great project next year. We start in October, have one meeting a month, and are done by early February. A great way to meet lots of people and help the church.

**FINANCIAL STATUS UPDATE**

Thank you to everyone who helped rectify our income shortfall in late fall through pledges, donations and other giving. As of 12/31/13 our deficit of income to expenses was reduced from $23,000 to only $3,000 which is manageable. At the halfway point in our fiscal year our income is 47.8% of budget and expenses are 48% of budget. The Board of Trustees is aware that income has remained strong throughout January and we made over $9,000 at the auction on February 1. So, thanks to all of you.

Chris Wallace, VP of Finances, Board of Trustees.