From the Minister’s Study

There is important information here that you will want to take note of. You will want to read all the way to the end.

As you probably know by now, I will have knee replacement surgery on February 15. Assuming all goes well, I will be recovered enough to return to the pulpit on Easter Sunday, March 27. In the meantime, your Worship Associates and Pastoral Care Team will be taking on extra responsibilities to ensure that the congregation is well cared for in my absence. Their names are listed here. Please be sure to thank them for their service to UUCT.

The current Worship Associates are: Wendy Gordon Weeks, Gary Luce, Betsy McMillan, Preston McMillan, Michelle Maliniak, Brett Murphy, Celeste Rogers, Carolyn Saunders, and Randy Springer.

The current Pastoral Care Team includes Fran Brazzell, Marsha Newcomb, Celeste Rogers, and Laura Sims. Should a pastoral care need arise while I am away, please contact the church office. They will forward the information to the Pastoral Care Team for follow-up.

Assuming all goes well, I anticipate that after the first couple of weeks post-surgery, I will be available by phone to leaders and staff for emergency consultation. I hope to at least make an appearance at key leadership meetings.

By the way, I am assuming all will go well. My surgeon is one of the very best in town. The medical and support staff at Tucson Orthopedic Institute are amazing.

I am very grateful to all who have reached out to me with encouragement and tips for getting through it all. A common mantra seems to be: Rehab! Physical Therapy!

AJ and I are also grateful for offers of meals and other forms of support, and, we must lovingly decline your generous offers. Imagine if all of you showed up on our doorstep with a casserole! Our household would become very crowded and busy, making it difficult to give our full attention to recovery and learning how to take care of a new, bionic knee. Be assured that we have family and friends available. We will let you know if there is something the church can do for us. We will also do our best to give you periodic updates via the all-church email.

You can assume that no news is good news. Really, this surgery is very common with a high success rate.

What we need most are your thoughts, prayers, and well wishes along with your best efforts to keep things running smoothly at church. Notes and cards can be mailed to my home: 3016 W. Touring Place, Tucson, AZ 85746.

On another matter, it seems there is some confusion regarding the status of Mary Wise, our Business Administrator. In January, she let the Board of Trustees and congregation know that she is looking for a new job. Some people took this to mean that she had resigned from UUCT, which is not true. She remains on staff, capably tending to the business operations of the church. Her openness with her decision to seek employment elsewhere allows her to conduct a job search with integrity. It allows the leadership of the congregation the grace of time to strategize about future staffing options.

Please be aware that my absence places an extra layer of stress on church staff. While my Letter of Agreement (contract) with the congregation allows for medical leave, the budget doesn’t fund replacement coverage. Volunteers are taking some of the slack up, but I fear much will fall to paid staff. They each hold themselves to a high level of excellence, consistently going above and beyond what is required of them. Much of what they do is invisible. All too often, the evidence of their work only appears when occasionally, it doesn’t happen – the heat doesn’t go on, the all-church email doesn’t go out, childcare isn’t available – hopefully you get the point here.

Regardless of any personal differences you may have with individual members of our church staff and regardless of whether or not you feel their position is necessary or affordable, remember that each of them is a person with inherent worth and dignity.

Shared ministry is at the core of Unitarian Universalist congregational life: clergy, laity, and paid staff working together to further our transformational mission of universal love and justice. Now, more than ever we are being called to put it into practice.

Yours in faith,
Rev. Diane
Share the Plate
Half of all non-pledge income in the offering on February 21st will be shared with Habitat for Humanity.
Habitat for Humanity’s vision is a world where everyone has a decent place to live. Our mission is to put God’s love into action by bringing people together to build homes, communities and hope.
There are nearly 2 billion people around the world who live in slum housing and more than 100 million are homeless. Habitat helps by building or renovating simple, decent houses in partnership with those in need. Families left homeless by natural disasters, war and civil unrest often face dire housing situations as they struggle to rebuild their lives. We provide shelter and housing assistance to help these families recover.
Donations to Habitat for Humanity provide vital financial support to help us build and repair houses. In addition, more than 1 million people each year volunteer to build with us under trained supervision.
In the United States, our partner homeowners’ monthly mortgage payments are used to build more Habitat houses.
On a global scale, we use innovative housing finance practices and/or partnerships with microfinance organizations to build and repair homes. For more information or to volunteer visit the website:
www.habitat.org

Want to work with our fabulous youth? They are spectacular and they are our future leaders. We are looking for a few good advisors and we will send you for training in California. Please contact
khogue@uuctucson.org

Magazine Sales - The magazine sales are still going on every Sunday. (Save the trees!!) Please continue to bring in your recent used magazines. Check out our low prices. We still have a good selection of 2016 calendars. Teachers: Does your school need old magazines for student art projects? Ask about our low bulk rates (like free!).

Newsletter Deadline
The deadline to submit an announcement is the 24th day of the month and the newsletter will be printed and available online the first week of the following month.