So Who’s Minding The Church?
by Frank Valdes, UUCT President

At our last Annual Meeting we sought to make the answer more transparent by explicitly adopting a yearly governance plan (click here). (Note that you have to sign in for all links.) That plan basically asks the Board of Trustees to do this. At its first meeting of the new operating year on July 19th the Board decided who would be overseeing the different “portfolios” as well as discussing what this entails. The portfolio holders and their areas of oversight are identified in the sidebar as well as in the minutes of the Board meeting (click here). We will be publishing portfolio reports monthly. Note that this governance plan is new for us so we will likely be adjusting things as we go along and addressing some gray areas of overlap. Come to the Call to the Congregation on August 6th to talk more about this (and anything else), as I’m sure there will be questions.

To be clear, the actual work of running the church is still in the hands of the Board, the Minister, the Staff, and the various committees. What the portfolios do is charge specific people to keep a careful eye on what is happening in each area of the church and make sure the Board and those doing the work communicate so that we can catch problems early before they become a crisis. It also distributes the responsibilities and gives you someone to talk to about ideas, concerns, and questions.

The July Board minutes also include our understanding of the people involved in leading committees and activities. This list is certainly not complete, so please send additions to president@uuctucson.org. Some groups are still working to find leaders. It is the goal of the Board to affirm the leadership and committees so that we all know whom to contact. We should not forget that committees also include many of you who have stepped forward to participate in the work of UUCT.

Help Hannah’s Family

Our special collection to help Hannah Parkhurst’s family with her medical expenses on July 29th was most gratefully received. If you missed this opportunity to support one of our UUCT families, you may now do so by clicking here.

Notes from the Minister
by Reverend Lyn Oglesby

How sweet it will be! To be back in the office Tuesday, Aug. 15 and back in the pulpit Aug. 20 – rested, refreshed, and excited to catch up and move forward into the new church year. For the first time I can remember, I spent time reading, thinking, writing, cleaning house, and just loafing. And it has been good. I am grateful for this time to rest and regenerate my spirit, and looking forward to the coming year.
The Board of Trustees engaged in a Vision Circle facilitated by the Settled Minister Search Committee on July 23rd. This was a positive and productive experience for us and the Search team. Please participate in one of the Vision Circles being offered.

Portfolios: From the Governance Plan

“The activities of the church shall fall under grouped administrative portfolios, each of which shall be overseen by a board member assigned to that portfolio. The portfolios are as follows.”

Worship—Mike Greenbaum
Oversight includes Minister, Music Staff and Choir, Worship Associates, Ushers and Greeters, Audio Visual (A/V) Team, Alternate Worship and CUUPS.

Operations—Jody Bergedick (VP Operations)
Oversight includes Administrator, Custodian, Child Care, Office Volunteers, Building Committee, Landscaping Committee, Tech Committee, and Personnel Committee.

Lifespan Faith Development (LFD)—Brad Weeks
LFD Staff, RE/LFD Council, Small Group Ministries, Our Whole Lives (OWL), Adult Education, Child and Youth Religious Education.

Finances—Margot Garcia (VP Finance)
Oversight includes Finance Committee, Treasurer, Bookkeeper, and Financial Secretary.

Ways and Means—Susan Rock
Oversight includes Pledge Canvas, Capital Campaigns, Fund Raising including the Auction, Rummage Sales, Cabaret, etc., and Legacy.

Membership—Ray Van Hoosear
Oversight includes Membership Committee, Directory, Website, Newsletter, Social Media, Publicity, and Newcomer Programs.

Denomination and Social Action—Sonia Cota-Robles
Oversight includes Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), Pacific Western Region/Pacific Southwest District (PWR/PSWD), Baja 4, UUJAZ (Unitarian Universalist Justice Arizona), and Social Justice Council.

Community Life—Bill Keyes
Oversight includes Personal Involvement Team (PIT), Kitchen Ministry (YUMMY), Potlucks, Campouts and Picnics, All-church retreats, Parties and Celebrations, Activities.

Service and a Celebration of Life

by Craig Rock

As UUs in Tucson, most of us appreciate living in a just society surrounded mostly by good people and a somewhat clean environment. We know that decent living conditions don’t occur by some miracle or prayer. People work on community projects or work for new laws that improve living conditions. Tucson is certainly not perfect. To some degree or another, we still share many of the challenges of other cities and towns where corruption is more rampant and the environment is riddled with unsafe conditions, ranging from poor water and air quality to starving people with little or no health care. We see or experience the pain, suffering or death brought about by gangs, robbers, poor drivers, and people under the influence. And in far too many communities we have governments ruled by crooked politicians or laws enforced by untrained or uncaring police forces.

Yet life goes and we celebrate life in Tucson. In most neighborhoods, we earn a living, eat decent food, watch our favorite television programs or movies, go on vacations, and visit our family doctors and dentists whenever necessary. And the cycle repeats itself daily, monthly, and yearly until one day our bodies fail, and we pass on to wherever, hopefully before our sons and daughters fall to harm’s way. Most of the time we keep quiet and celebrate life as misfortune falls upon others, some close by but most further way. Other times, we awake in time to help our neighbors in time of need.

Here are two projects that UUs at our church working on. One project involves helping local churches with the day-to-day jobs required in housing people in sanctuary; the other project supports the Tucson Interfaith AIDS HIV lunch and celebration that is held monthly. UUCT and two other churches are involved in the September event. Volunteers and/or donations are needed for both. Here is some background information.

Church Volunteers Train to Help Their Immigrant Neighbors

To many Americans, sanctuary means the safety that we have in our homes, our neighborhoods, our schools, and at our jobs. At our church, sanctuary is experienced as a place of friendship and
community expressed through shared values (seven principles) in songs, words, and deeds.

We know from Trump’s announcements that deportations will be increasing soon. Our neighbors, friends, or relatives may be threatened, young and old alike. Many have lived in the U.S. for as long as they can remember. Three million people took advantage of the amnesty offered during the Reagan years if they could prove that they were living in the United States before 1982. Just a week ago, the working group Keep Tucson Together (KTT), a part of our No More Deaths ministry, announced that of the 99 people sworn in as naturalized American citizens in Tucson on July 26, 16 were KTT clients, almost 20 percent. KTT always needs volunteers even if you don’t speak Spanish. Contact Attorney Margo Cowan if you want to help the group in any way, email: mmcowan@cox.net

UUs are activating in communities across the land, people of faith and conscience resisting the criminalization of our neighbors. Some churches like the UU churches in Reno and Denver housed neighbors who needed sanctuary on a short-term or longer-term basis. In Tucson, we need volunteers to help at other churches who are providing temporary sanctuary for people at risk. A short training program will be starting soon and I need to know how many people we can count on from UUCT. Please consider this call to action. Duties are varied and will be discussed at the training session. Let me know if you are free for a weekday or weeknight training or on Saturday during the day. Email me at UUCT’s newsletter; the address is newsletter@uuctucson.org.

Tucson Interfaith AIDS HIV Network

UUCTers Angela Wasson and Ray Van Hoosear recently attended a planning meeting for a POZ Café lunch event that will benefit victims of HIV AIDS. The lunch will be on Thursday, September 21, at St. Francis in the Foothills United Methodist Church. Volunteers will be needed during the hours from 8:45 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Two other churches will participate with UUCT: Southside Presbyterian Church and Saguaro Christian Church. This has been an ongoing project of UUCT over the years.

UUCT has been asked to contribute a specified number of gift bags, bleach bottles, razors, and toilet paper rolls, in addition to prizes for the bingo games that will follow lunch. Several volunteers have already signed up to assist with cooking and serving lunch. In addition to the items mentioned above, we are soliciting cash donations to purchase prizes for the bingo games.

Thank you for adding your contributions to the donation box in Goddard Hall and helping us make this event a success. For more information please contact Angela Wasson awasson1221@gmail.com (520)909-5740.

Updates on Religious Education Programs
by Jamili Omar

First, a heartfelt thank you to all the amazing volunteers who taught in Summer Religious Education. We ran 2 classes every week: All Ages (1st to 5th grades) Youth Chapel and YRUU+ (6th to 12th grades), and it couldn’t have happened without the dedication of all the teachers who stepped up to teach week after week.

Religious Education (RE) for our children and youth will begin again in August, and we need you!
We have enough youth to offer 4 levels:
• Pre-K/Kindergarten (about 3, 4, 5 year olds)  • Primary (about 5 to 10 year olds)
• Middle (about 10 to 13 year olds)  • YRUU (about 13 to 18 year olds)

Unfortunately, we need more teachers for almost every level --and, contrary to popular belief, you don’t need to be an artist to teach RE (but if you are, that’s great, too)!

RE Teachers...

...generally teach 2 weekends a month, with some months adding a 3rd session.
...work as a team of 2, alternating between leading and assisting every week.
...help personalize the written curriculum for the class and their personal skills.
...attend about 2 trainings (fall and spring).
...will pass a general criminal and sex offender background check.
...will have the devotion of their class and the deep appreciation of the Church.

But! If you’re not ready or able to teach, please consider the ways you can volunteer with RE. We'll need volunteer greeters, occasional field trip drivers, lock-in supervisors, substitute teachers, and a whole host of other workers.

When you have questions or are ready to step-up, contact Jamili Omar at DRE.UUCT@gmail.com.

Do you have a child who will be attending RE in the fall?
Look for (re)registration forms starting Aug 6. For those with a registration form on file, you’ll simply need to update the information. Those forms will be available starting Aug 6, too.

Fall Dates

Be sure to get these dates on your calendar!

LFD/RE Council Meeting --July 30, 12:00-1:00pm.

New to RE Social --August 6, 11:30am-12:00pm.
Join us after the service to welcome new families and answer questions about Fall RE classes.

Ministerial Search Vision Circle --August 6, 12:00pm-1:30pm.

RE Teacher Training -- August 13, 12:00-3pm.
All regular classroom teachers and substitute teachers should plan to attend.
Not sure if you’ll join a teaching team? Come anyway!

RE Kick-off! --August 13, 10:30-11:30am.
All Youth and families will be in Sunday Service as we celebrate the start of the academic year and our fall RE classes.

First Day! --August 20 will be the first day of Fall classes.
Announcements

UUCT's Sunday Service, August 6
"Black Spirituals Matter: Listening and Empathy"
presented by Brian Moon

In light of how most UU churches and institutions are currently engaging in careful examination of the ways institutionalized racism and sexism affect the denomination at large, this talk examines how these forces might play out in individual worship services by examining the use of the African American spiritual.

Search Committee Hosts Vision Circles

The Search Committee (SC) is currently gathering information and data in the self-study phase of the search process. To assist the SC, we encourage all members and friends of UUCT to participate in one vision circle, an opportunity to gather together in a small group and express needs, interests, and hopes for our future. The focus of the circles is listening to each other and learning. Some circles will consist of current UUCT committees or groups; others will consist of participants who opt to sign up online. Please join in the ongoing conversation about our next settled minister and the future of our congregation. Watch the email blasts and other UUCT media for registration.

UUCT Financial Report

by Margot Garcia, Vice President for Finance

UUCT finished the fiscal year 2016-2017 on June 30 in a very strong position. Despite having a $17,466.29 shortfall for the month of June, covered by our savings over the previous months, we finished the Spring budget with a carry-forward of $15,062.07 and a full year carry-forward of $16,095.35. Thank you all for paying your pledges in full. We were $9,449.63 over the budgeted amount for pledges. That is fantastic. Hurrah for us! We were also $10,323.70 over budget in income for community life (auction, extra yard sale, and Sunday lunches), as well as for Social Justice, which was $9,586.42 over budget. The year total for expenses was $14,059.90 over budget, but with the strong income we were able to handle the extra costs. Physical Plant and Social Justice (pass-through of wages for No More Deaths) were the two ministries that contributed to the overspending. All the rest were under budget.

Part of the reason June had a shortfall is that there are three pay periods in that month.
That adds an extra approximately $9,000 to expenses when you add up salaries, pensions, medical, FICA costs, and federal and state tax payments. We also paid for the new dishwasher in June. Our $3,900 rental check from the Children’s Center was deposited after the first of the month, and therefore in the next fiscal year, instead of being at the end of the month as it usually is. That also added to the big difference between income and expenses.

We have funds to pay for replacing one of the air conditioning units in Goddard for a bid price of $9,640. The board accepted that bid and the project should be under way.

The Vice-President for Finance will be holding a cash management workshop in August for all folks who count cash and who are interested (ushers, yard sale people, coffee hour people, etc.). Watch for an announcement of date and place.

We welcome Carolyn Cooper to the Finance Committee. We are still looking for another member. Want to join a fun group? Contact Margot Garcia.

Thank you again for your generous pledging and paying on time. It helps our church run smoothly and with less stress for the financial folks.

**Update on CUUPS at UUCT**

**Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans**

by Carrie Cooper

The Southern Arizona CUUPS group had a small meeting in July. Three people showed up for the Divination Roundtable. Two of the attendees have broken away from an evangelical background, and they had many questions about our UU faith. We talked information. Please participate in the search process. Come listen.

**Hiroshima-Nagasaki Remembrance Vigil**

Tuesday, August 8, 7-8 a.m.

Holding signs outside of Davis-Monthan AFB

On August 6 & 9, 1945, the U.S. dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan -- an act of unspeakable terror against innocent men, women and children. Tucsonans will commemorate the bombings and say NEVER AGAIN at the gates of Davis-Monthan Air Force Base (Craycroft Rd. entrance, at Golf Links Rd.). Our presence on Tuesday morning is one of the monthly peace vigils at Davis-Monthan that have been going on for many years. Please join us! Park at the recreation field parking lot at the northwest corner of Craycroft & Golf Links with access from Craycroft. Signs provided, or bring your own! For more information, contact Jack & Felice at <nukeresister@igc.org>

**Social Justice Council Meeting**

Sunday, August 13, Noon, Servetus Room

This month’s meeting will focus on the vision circle facilitated by the Ministerial Search Committee.

**Have Ideas for the Social Action Minute?**

Contact Sonia Cota-Robles (sonia@Cota-Robles.us) or Margo Newhouse (margonewhouse25@hotmail.com)
about church life for about 40 minutes. One of their questions was, “When you sing hymns here, Who are you praising?” We then talked about the Spirit of Love, and the different theologies that UUCT members have. It seemed to delight them that members of the same church could comfortably worship one, none, or many gods.

It’s always fun to do show and tell on our favorite tools, and we also had a good time comparing decks and doing readings for each other. We talked about the Celtic Cross spread (you can read more about this spread by clicking here: https://www.biddytarot.com/how-to-read-the-celtic-cross-tarot-spread/). One of the participants showed us a shortcut: instead of reading all 10 cards, you can read the three most important cards, which are placed diagonally (cards 3, 4, and 7) in the diagram (what’s going on with the questioner, the likely future outcome, and advice).

Someone asked me, was it worth it to have such as small group? Yes, for sure. The session was emotionally intimate, and we made a nice connection. We’ll definitely be having another “Tarot Talk” session in the future.

Eighteen enthusiastic people met in July for a lively discussion in our Adult Education Book Group. We are reading “Turning Point: Essays on a New Unitarian Universalism,” an anthology edited by Frederic Muir.

A major discussion was pluralism vs. diversity. In diversity, different elements are present. In pluralism, there is a positive attitude of including those differences. (You can read more about this topic from pluralism.org and stateofformation.org). For example, we can have people of different faith backgrounds in this church, and that’s diversity. But when all these people feel their faith backgrounds are cherished, and we interact together, then we have pluralism. It’s like a salad bowl: we have different components that maintain their identity; that’s diversity. The vegetables cucumber, lettuce, and carrots are diverse. But when we blend the components together to make a delicious salad, and everything is better together, we have pluralism. This is a marked difference to the melting pot theory, in which we try to blend all the diverse components into one homogenous mass.

Highlights of this discussion also included:

- how many UUs are “faith immigrants” from other religions.
- Saul Alinsky’s “Iron Rule”: “Do not do for others what they can do for themselves.” If you think you have to do it for people, you have stopped understanding what being a good organizer means.
- Unitarianism vs. Universalism (Smith).
SAFESITTER is a medically accurate program that teaches boys and girls ages 11 to 13 how to handle emergencies when caring for young children. The class will be held on Saturday, August 5, from 9-4. Registration forms are available in Goddard Hall on Sundays or on our website.

Christmas Season in Santa Fe!
December 8-December 15

We are planning to see Santa Fe with all the Christmas decorations in place. This will be different from all the other Tuurs we have taken to Santa Fe. We will tour the Deming Luna Mimbres Museum, a stop at the Bosque del Apache Wildlife Reservation to see migrating and local wildlife, a visit to the El Camino Real Historic Trail, Santa Fe at Christmastime, and Taos in the holidays. Departing December 8th for 7 days. Price is $840 double occupancy, or $1263 single occupancy. Email Julia Mehrer for more information and STAY TUNED for updates! perujourney@gainbroadband.com

Leadership Summit and Camp
(August 12-16 - See ad on page 4)

OWL Training, August 18-20

If you believe in the power of open and comprehensive learning about sexuality and its impact on the lives of children, youth, and adults, consider becoming an OWL (Our Whole Lives) teacher. This training is being offered for teaching Middle School and Senior High students. Male teachers are highly sought after, so men step forward! See Natasha Warner, Sam Meyer, or Frank Valdes for more information.

Ushers Needed

If you can give one Sunday per month, or even less, please consider ushering at UUCT. It's a great way to meet people and is a vital function for the church. Contact Carolyn Valdes, email cvaldes@cox.net

Apply to Serve on the PAG
Bicycle-Pedestrian Subcommittee
(Deadline August 4)

Pima Association of Governments’ (PAG) Bicycle-Pedestrian Subcommittee (BPS) operates as a working group supporting regional efforts to address bicycle and pedestrian concerns. Regional efforts include PAG’s regional bicycle and pedestrian count program and Tucson Bikeways map, among others.

PAG is actively soliciting applications to select up to four community individuals to volunteer for this group. We encourage all interested Pima County area residents to apply by completing an application by August 4. Detailed information about meeting schedule, roles, responsibilities, time commitment, and more are available within the application.

CLICK TO APPLY
New Welcoming Experiences for Fall 2017
by Janet Williams

The Membership Committee has been busy in the heat of the summer. We are working with a limited summer agenda focusing on the Welcome Center and the Newcomer Orientation Program to begin in October as the First Sunday Chat.

The team has made the following strides to date:

• Established a Lifetime Membership status, honoring long-time UUCT members who are unable to actively participate.
• Revised the newcomers’ portal on our website.
• Created an attractive and effective Welcome Center in Goddard.
• Developed compelling, colorful, and informative

Share the Plate Sunday August 20th
International Rescue Committee of Tucson

Believing as we do in the inherent worth and dignity of all human beings, our Share the Plate recipient for August is the International Rescue Committee of Tucson, which provides aid and support for refugees, asylees, victims of human trafficking, survivors of torture, and other immigrants. Each year, thousands of people, forced to flee violence and persecution, are welcomed by the people of the United States into the safety and freedom of America. These individuals have survived against incredible odds. In Tucson and other offices across the country, the IRC helps them to rebuild their lives.

On their website (click here), https://www.rescue.org/united-states/tucson-az, you can find real facts about refugees and actions that we can take to oppose the administration’s ban on refugees. You can read stories of the refugees who have settled in Tucson and find
handouts for visitors to the Welcome Center.
• Clarified our campus map.
• Suggested to the Facilities Team that accurate and updated signage on doors would help newcomers as well as current congregants.
• Expanded our vision of newcomer needs.
• Revised, updated, and expanded newcomer information for our Membership website pages.
• Increased committee membership by two. Welcome newcomers Nichole and Rashad Ahmad. They come with valuable skills and have gotten active in several projects in the congregation.

We are always looking for additional people to become part of the Membership Team. Come join us by helping us create a welcoming environment to grow UUCT and have fun in the process.

Please stop by our Welcome Center, the coolest place in Goddard!
It is staffed by our friendly Team Members!

NEW MEMBERS

Todd Maynard and Elias Santana

ways to volunteer.
Rescue lives in Tucson, AZ | International Rescue ...
www.rescue.org
Each year, thousands of refugees are invited by the U.S. government to seek safety and freedom. In Tucson and other offices across the country, the IRC helps them ...

For Friends and Film Buffs

Tucson Balkan Peace Support Group
Summer Films 2017, August 8
Showing at 10 AM with snack
in McMillan’ Screening Room
428 E. Adams St.
(Private Film Showing & Discussion - Free)

The Lesson—Bulgarian w/English Subtitles

Production (Bulgaria-Greece) An Abraxas Film production in association with Little Wing.

With Margita Gosheva, Ivan Barnev, Ivanka Bratoeva, Ivan Savov, Andrea Todorova, Stefan Denolyubov

YouTube Video

THE LESSON Trailer | Festival 2014

Variety:
Loosely based on a real-life incident employed effectively by the filmmakers as a last-act plot twist, Kristina Grozeva and Petar Valchanov’s “The Lesson” is a spare, stripped-to-essentials drama about economic stress and mounting desperation that should resonate with a wide range of international audiences. The naturalistic style of the storytelling is stealthily entralling.
Urgent Action Required

Act Now to Help Save Oak Flat

Take action today to help pass the 2017 Save Oak Flat Act.

You may have already heard the exciting news that on June 15, 2017, Congressman Raul Grijalva (D-AZ) and Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT) introduced the 2017 Save Oak Flat Act in both the House and the Senate. This bill does one simple but very important thing – it repeals the provisions of the 2015 National Defense Authorization Act that gave Oak Flat to multinational corporation Resolution Copper in exchange for lands owned by the mining giant far from Oak Flat that don’t have the same cultural, spiritual, or ecological importance, nor do they have the water you will find at Oak Flat.

The House bill, HR 2915, has 34 co-sponsors from both parties and across the U.S. The Senate bill, S 1375, has just four cosponsor -- Senators Merkley (D-OR), Wyden (D-OR), Heinrich (D-NM), and Booker (D-NJ).

Unfortunately, in early June 2017, Arizona Congressman Tom O’Halleran (D-AZ) made the announcement that he is refusing to support the Save Oak Flat Act and instead will act as an “arbitrator.” Given that there is nothing to arbitrate -- the Oak Flat Land Exchange was a theft of public lands in a back-room, midnight deal that robs indigenous people of their right to continue to use their lands and undermines the will of the people and the protections granted by President Eisenhower in 1955 -- we can’t understand how Congressman O’Halleran can sleep at night and why he is failing to give a voice to the Apache people as he promised to do. Wendsler Noise, Sr., is asking everyone to contact Congressman O’Halleran and we want to signal boost that request! You can read a copy of Mr. Noise’s letter below and then we need you to act, because getting these bills passed is up to you!

First, we need you to contact Congressman O’Halleran and ask him to support the Save Oak Flat Act, especially if you live in his district (District 1 in Arizona). You can call his office in Washington, D.C. (202-225-3361), Flagstaff (928-286-5338), Casa Grande (520-316-0839), or north Tucson (928-304-0131). If you live in Arizona’s District 1, you can use this form to send him an email.

Then, we need you do even more. Please take a few moments to contact your Senators and Representatives and ask them to co-sponsor the bills, or thank them if they have already done so. With your help, the number of co-sponsors will grow and the bill will become law. But we need you to take action today and ask your friends and family to do the same. Click here to find the contact information for your member of Congress and then either call or send a message letting them know you want them to support and co-sponsor the Save Oak Flat Act.

Finally, we need you to share this message with your friends, family, and colleagues and ask them to take action, too. We need everyone to join this fight to #SaveOakFlat and pass the #SaveOakFlatAct!

For more information visit Apache Stronghold for contact information. You can also find Apache Stronghold on Facebook, or visit Tucson Supports Oak Flat on Facebook.

Greetings from Sierra Club Borderlands

#Resist. You see it on social media and on t-shirts, but here in the borderlands, you see it in action. Today’s update is called ‘How to #Resist the Border Wall in Four Easy Steps.’ Take it as an invitation or a challenge.

Sierra Club’s Borderlands Team works every day to stop Trump’s wall, but we can’t succeed without regular people just like you, who take a stand, speak out, organize and delay, delay, delay! Please join us.

Thank you for caring about the borderlands,
Dan Millis, (dan.millis@sierraclub.org)
www.sierraclub.org/borderlands

How to #Resist the Border Wall in Four Easy Steps:
1) Take a Stand, 2) Speak Out, 3) Organize, and 4) Delay, Delay, Delay!

1) Take a Stand

Trump is trying to use the federal government to shove his wall idea down the throats of the American people, but the people are fighting back! States such as California and Illinois are debating new laws that would divest from border walls and companies that build them. Counties and cities along the border and beyond are passing resolutions against the wall. You can take a stand against the wall by asking your city, county or state government to pass a resolution like the one passed by Arizona’s Pima County! See press release below from the Center for Biological Diversity, and a link to the text of Pima County’s resolution.

(Above Photo: Rep. Engel speaks in favor of the “no wall” resolution to Pima County Board of Supervisors. Photo Credit Dan Millis)

2) Speak Out

Borderlands Team volunteers have already traveled to Washington, D.C. twice in 2017 to tell lawmakers to vote “no” on funding for Trump’s wall! In June, we held a roundtable with the House Border Caucus, briefed the House Natural Resources Committee staff, and met with a number of key decision-makers. You can speak out by signing our petition at tiny.cc/NoWall and sharing it via a social media post or a quick email to friends and family. (Photo Credit: Krista Schlyer)
The Rev. Robin Tanner, minister of worship and outreach at Beacon Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Summit, NJ, joined the Revs. William Barber, Traci Blackmon, Jennifer Butler and others outside of Senator Mitch McConnell’s office to protest the deep cuts to Medicaid included in the most recent version of the Republican healthcare bill. Rev. Tanner joined the group as a representative of the UUA and she shared this reflection on her participation:

I was arrested today as an act of moral obedience, a day after the 200th birthday of Thoreau. Below is my testimony. We need people of faith to rise up now. More details are coming soon if you are also called to moral obedience or civil disobedience as some call it.

As a Unitarian Universalist minister, I’ve served in parish ministry for seven years, but before that ministry I served as a hospital chaplain. Hospitals are filled with complex decisions, and at times, medical teams disagree about the best course of treatment or action. But there is one thing we were always clear on:

Health care is a fundamental human right.

My faith is clear—health care is a fundamental right. To care for the body of a human to ensure that they can live is a fundamental moral obligation in a just society and a moral obligation commanded by our constitution. Some things are complex—string theory and just war theory. This is simple: we have a moral imperative. Eroding and eradicating Medicaid is denying life to 22 million Americans. It may be done in the back room bargains of congressional offices instead of under the bright lights of an emergency room, but anyone who supports this—who supports the idea that care of the body is a privilege—has blood on their hands.

On my way here, I was stopped at the train station by a woman, Darlene, who asked me to pray for her because she is having back surgery to alleviate extraordinary pain. I’m here praying with my body and faithful witness that the only worry upon Darlene and millions of Americans will be recovery and healing.

Our constitution and moral consciousness is clear:

No one deserves to die because they couldn’t afford medical care.

Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.
Let America breathe, Congress.

Landowners, mayors, and community members such as our own Scott Nicol are organizing to stop border walls along the Rio Grande in Texas (read about it here). You can do the same thing, wherever you are, by reaching out to groups and congregations in your own community and deciding together how you can best take action to oppose the wall! If you’d like to join our organizing efforts, simply reply by using the contact information above.

4) Delay, Delay, Delay

Trump said his border wall prototype designs would be built in June, but it looks like he hasn’t even selected the contractors yet. Our volunteers are keeping an eye on the prototype wall construction site, and our coalition partners are suing to stop Trump’s wall before it starts. You can help by donating or volunteering. See Dan Millis’s contact information above.

Center for Biological Diversity - Press Release (June 6)

Pima County Passes Resolution Opposing Trump's Border Wall

TUCSON, Ariz.— The Pima County Board of Supervisors voted today to pass a resolution opposing President Trump’s proposed border wall and increased militarization of the border region. The resolution explicitly rejects the president’s Jan. 25 executive order and calls for a comprehensive review of border-security policy.

“We’re pleased and grateful that our local elected leaders have denounced Trump’s destructive border plans,” said Randy Serraglio, a conservation advocate with the Center. “Let their message ring out — don’t destroy our beautiful border region and terrorize its people in our name.”

The resolution lists many reasons to oppose the border wall and militarization. These include thousands of migrant deaths and civil-and human-rights abuses caused by existing border policy, as well as widespread harm to border environments and wildlife, many species of which are protected under the Endangered Species Act.

“The border wall divides and harms people and wildlife alike,” said Serraglio. “There’s no reason to sacrifice jaguars, ocelots, Mexican wolves and other rare and precious animals to feed a delusion of border security. Border walls and militarization have done a lot of harm already — and nothing good for the cause of immigration reform.”

Pima County is home to the city of Tucson and more than a million people. It includes almost 100 miles of the U.S.-Mexico border, much of which lies on the Tohono O’odham Indian reservation. The Tohono O’odham live on both sides of the border, and the resolution cites the opposition of tribal leaders to the border wall, which would destroy sacred sites and impede cross-border movements for traditional and ceremonial purposes.

“The proposal to wall off the U.S.- Mexico border is driven by bigotry, fear-mongering and a cynically distorted image of the borderlands,” said Serraglio. “Trump’s paranoid vision doesn’t reflect the reality of border communities, which are among the safest in the country.”
The event will take place at Camp de Benneville Pines, August 12-16. Registration for the whole event is only $250 -- or you can register for any two days for only $200! PLUS, when three or more folks register from the same congregation, you get an additional 10% discount. The schedule for the camp is full of workshops on and related to congregational justice work.

The city of Tucson will consider a similar resolution at its meeting later today.

The Center for Biological Diversity is a national, nonprofit conservation organization with more than 1.3 million members and online activists dedicated to the protection of endangered species and wild places.

For more information: Contact: Randy Serraglio, (520) 784-1504, rserraglio@biologicaldiversity.org

**NEWS FROM NO MORE DEATHS**

from Jim Marx

**Father Jerry Zawada, long time NMD volunteer, died in late July.**

Jerry Zawada, Presente! Fr. Jerry Zawada OFM - nuclear resister, peace and justice activist, Franciscan friar - died on the morning of July 25 at the age of 80. Jerry served his early years as a Franciscan priest in the Philippines, and later worked with the homeless, war refugees and survivors of torture in Chicago, Milwaukee, Mexico, Las Vegas, Tucson, and elsewhere.

Jerry was imprisoned for two years in the late 1980s for repeated trespass at nuclear missile silos in the Midwest; served three six-month prison sentences (2001, 2003, 2005) for trespass at the School of the Americas in Fort Benning, Georgia, and two months in prison in 2007 after crossing the line to protest torture training at Fort Huachuca, Arizona. A few years ago, his advocacy for and celebration of mass with women priests earned a disciplinary letter from the Vatican.

Jerry started the Dignity Bag project through No More Deaths. The project raised money to buy sturdy canvas tote bags, made by the women of the Douglas-Prieta Cooperative, which were given to deported migrants through the KBI comedor in Nogales. Please keep him and all of us who loved him in your hearts.