The poet Rainer Maria Rilke wrote:

How surely gravity’s law,  
strong as an ocean current,  
takes hold of even the strongest thing  
and pulls it toward the heart of the world.

Each thing -  
each stone, blossom, child -  
is held in place.  
Only we, in our arrogance,  
push out beyond what we belong to  
for some empty freedom…

This is what the things can teach us:  
to fall,  
patiently to trust our heaviness.  
Even a bird has to do that  
before he can fly.

This month in worship, we will be talking about trust. Specifically, trust as a spiritual and religious concept. Something that is essential to faith development and community building.

We all need to trust something outside ourselves. Early human recognitions of this truth led to a plethora of divine forces and mythical stories, all of which have given billions of humans comfort and hope.

Both our instincts, as humans, and our cultural patterns, as Unitarian Universalists, tempt us to believe we can do this thing called life on our own. Hyper-individualism is a dangerous path. It leads us out of relationship with one another, with all of life, and with our earth. The divided state of our country and our changing climate, are both disastrous outcomes of hyper-individualism.

I feel that we Unitarian Universalists rest too much on individual freedom and pursuit, at the expense of a close understanding of what bind us together. I yearn for a revitalization of our collective Unitarian Universalist theology. I believe we must co-create a theology that we can place our trust in. A theology that we trust, in that we will not abandon it, but instead lean into it, when times get hard and our trust is tried. (Continued p2)

This theological revitalization must start with what we already trust. In what do you place your trust? What in your life will never let you go? What allows you to fall, and trust your heaviness? In what can we – as Unitarian Universalists – place our common trust?
In general, things are going well at UUCT. An exciting development is getting serious about maintaining and improving our beautiful campus and buildings. While UUCT is a lovely, spiritual, and happy place we have to watch out for fraying around the edges. This is being guided by a Buildings and Grounds committee that has started meeting monthly with good attendance. We are aided by finally having some money beyond the bare-bones budgets of earlier years. This money is not enough to do everything, of course, but the committee works to a priority consensus and can start the ball rolling on a few items. You can talk with Jody Bergedick, our Administration VP, and Margot Garcia about what things are in the hopper.

One important campus improvement, initiated by the Board of Trustees, is to provide live streaming of services to Goddard. A high-tech group of talented members has developed a plan and is putting together the equipment needed. The most noticeable item is a large screen TV in Goddard, but it also includes a camera and transmitters. If you are interested you can peek behind the projection screen in Goddard, which will eventually disappear, and be replaced by a cabinet. The project is not yet complete but you should see the system in use in a month or two.

A topic your Board and staff have been forced to return to is security. We don't like to think about it and how it can impact our open, welcoming church. This is driven not only by the horrific recent events in El Paso and beyond but by recognition that awareness is always a good thing. Also, security includes protection of our facilities. There has been some vandalism on campus including break-ins to our R.E. rooms. We will keep you apprised of plans as they develop further.

What would UUCT be without occasional workshops? We are planning a workshop to talk about how we covenant together at UUCT. How can we keep ourselves on our best behavior when we are in community?

The first "Ask Us Anything" congregational meeting of the church year is scheduled for Sunday, September 15th after service. This is how we attempt to provide transparency and dispel any rumors. This is also one of the ways we can provide updates and hear concerns, both of which can be discussed within the larger context of the congregation. In the last couple of years, we had monthly meetings and attendance went almost to zero. So, we will hold these quarterly and your attendance will be a vote for this type of activity. Please come.
The Welcoming and Membership Team continues to post new members' photos and biographies in the foyer of Holland. Please read and get to know these newcomers to our congregation. Four new members signed the Membership Book this month. Please welcome Judy Jessing, Judy Rinard, Gail Ringer and Marjorie Stark.

An orientation and breakfast for all newcomers interested in learning more about UUCT will be held Saturday, September 7 from 9:00 to 12:00 noon. Childcare will be provided. Contact Alma Byrd at alma.byrd777@gmail.com to RSVP. Attendees may choose to join the church at the session's end.

You may also visit with someone in the Welcome Center in Goddard Hall before the next official membership signing on September 15 immediately after church.

+++++++ Talking of Finances - JD Garcia VP of Finance

The operating budget has opened the new fiscal year (July 2019-June 2020) in good condition. We count on YOU to help it stay that way the entire year.

We often see a drop in pledge income during the Fall months, as people get busy with new school years, catching up with life after a vacation, etc. But our staff would still like to get paid and the UUCT electric bill needs to be paid. Please remember to keep your pledge giving up to date.

Financing Deferred Maintenance: The Finance Committee has been working with the Facilities Committee to identify the deferred maintenance that may need to be done in the next five years, and some possible sources of funding. This includes: the bathrooms in the children’s wing buildings, electrical works in Goddard, the fascia on all of our buildings, floodwater control and water harvesting. Plus, eventually the HVAC in Holland, and more. When we have more bids for these items we will discuss this topic with the congregation.
Religious Education Update
Jamili Omar

R U Ready to: Deepen your faith? Strengthen connections? Serve your community? Then 2nd Hour is what you've been looking for!

In this year of experimentation, 2nd Hour is one way that Rev. Bethany and I want to answer the call to offer more opportunities for adults to learn, grow, and deepen in understanding, community, connection, and service.

From 12:30-1:30pm, one Sunday per month, we will offer opportunities for people of all ages to participate in community-led activities or classes. Offerings will vary every month, so watch the weekly email for details including descriptions and age restrictions.

Date: Sept. 8, 2019
Time: 12:30-1:30pm.
Topics: This month we are teaching:
· Small Group Ministry led by Rev. Bethany. Adults 18+ only. Blackwell room
· Sing and Learn Songs led by Brian Moon. All Ages. Holland.
· Building the World We Dream About: Anti-Racism in Racist Times led by Rev. Karla Brockie. Everyone ages 11+. Awareness Room
· Art in the Desert: Decorating Water Jugs for Immigrants led by Jamili Omar. All Ages. Goddard Hall.

Children are welcome in classes indicated by “all ages” and those with a age indicated, and childcare is available for those under 10 years.

What's in a Name?

Announcing a new name for a new role! Role Models, that is. As we were talking about this all-ages model of learning, we discussed the idea that we don't really "teach" so much as facilitate, lead, organize, manage chaos, help others explore, and model our own wondering process. How do you capture all that in a job title? With…

Role Models!

Our Sunday morning "formerly known as teachers" will now be known as Role Models, and the best part, is that ANYONE (yes, you!) can be a Role Model! You can step into the classroom for a short time commitment (or a longer one if you're so moved).

Jamili and the experienced facilitators will be preparing all the curriculum and supplies, and less experienced teachers will be paired with experienced folks! You'll have the day's activities in advance so you can be prepared, but there won't be any search for materials or books! Woohoo!

Complete the Fall RE interest form at:
https://forms.gle/NsDCZd9USwuXsYTw6

Questions? Want to teach (Role Model)? Contact Jamili at DRE.UUCT@gmail.com
UUCT Care Team

We don't hear much about the Care Team. Mostly because they are a dedicated group quietly working in the background, making certain folks who need a visit, a card, a hug or a phone call know that UUCT cares. The mission of the Team speaks to who they are:

The focus of the Care Team at UUCT is to facilitate communication with members who are not able to attend church events or those who may need caring outreach during difficult life experiences. Volunteers are available to provide temporary assistance in cases of need. Actions such as phone calls, home and hospital visits, or sending cards are performed in accordance with UU Principles and may include help with transportation and meals. When long-term assistance is needed, the Care Team members seek referral for wider community services.

Do you know someone who is ill, alone or would like a visit or call? Contact Aston Bloom at: abloom46@aol.com

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Building the World We Dream About - Rev. Karla Brockie

Racism is in the news... Are you committed to do something about it? Are you longing for the kind of intentional experience that will transform your life, deepen your faith, and enrich your soul?

As Unitarian Universalists, we believe that developing antiracist, anti-oppressive, and multicultural habits and skills will lead us to build the multicultural world of beloved community we dream about. Building the World We Dream About is an in-depth, Unitarian Universalist program that seeks to interrupt the workings of racism and transform how people from different racial/ethnic groups understand and relate to one another. We will offer this intensive curriculum on Thursday evenings from 6-8pm for UUCT members and friends and anyone interested, beginning September 12. It will be offered in three successive 8-week sessions, with a separate review workshop to welcome new participants at the beginning of the second and third sessions. We ask for your commitment to the whole of an 8-week session.

To get a taste, come to the open workshop on Sunday, September 8, at UUCT’s Second Hour, 12:30 to 1:30.

For more information or to register, contact Rev. Karla Brockie: kbrockie@uuma.org, 928-765-5094

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Sunday Morning Discussion Group

Join us for Conversation Among Friends, 9 a.m. every Sunday in the Servetus Room, UUCT Campus. Ronna James, facilitator. All adults welcome.

For more information call Gilbert Moore 520-790-7568 or email gmoore579@aol.com.
It's not too early... YARD SALE!
Friday, November 2 and Saturday, November 3, 2019

Are you cleaning out your closets yet?

Now is the time to start thinking about donating for our 10th annual yard sale. We will be accepting donations in the north-east corner of Goddard Hall.

Also consider volunteering for setting up for the yard sale on October 31st and November 1 and/or cleaning up on Sunday, November 4.

Questions? Contact:
Margi Magruder:
4mstern6@gmail.com

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Worship Topics for September - Bob Gordon

9.1.19 Rev. Bethany; Bob Gordon - "Floating Alone: the Myth of Self-Reliance" Can we ever really go it alone? How can we learn to see and feel our interdependence?

Intergenertional

9.15.19 Rev. Bethany; Bert Meek - "Steering a Ship: Trusting Community." Our worship center was built to resemble an upside-down Viking ship. How might we reclaim and leave behind aspects of Viking culture as we move forward in our work together?

9.22.19 CUUPS - Julie Olson and Carrie Cooper; Brenda Lundt (TBA)

9.29.19 Matthew Funke Crary - "Your Sunflower." If "forgetting is something that time alone takes care of, but forgiveness is an act of volition," as Simon Wiesenthal states in The Sunflower, what is your will for forgiveness? (Rev. Crary is from Borderlands UU in Green Valley/Amado.)

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Open Mic
All Are Welcome!

Are you a musician, poet, storyteller, magician, dancer or other kind of entertainer? No? Well, do you enjoy live entertainment? Join us on the fourth Sunday of each month in Holland Sanctuary for Open Mic

The next one is Sunday, September 22, at 12:00. All are welcome to play, sing, dance - whatever you do, along with anyone who loves live entertainment.

We will have a drumming circle at this same time at the monthly open mic.
   If you have a drum, please bring it. Otherwise, we will have some other percussion instruments to play.
   Contact Bo or Sandy Ongley for details.
   sandyongley@hotmail.com
What Is Waning

Our Lammas ritual in the Taino tradition was a beautiful event and we were blessed with a summer storm to wrap it up as well! Thanks to Ana for that really lovely ritual gathering.

What Is Waxing

Now that fall has come (at least, in theory) we are back to hosting our monthly Second Sunday gatherings. Coming up on September 8th at 3 pm is another divination round table.

Bring your cards, your bones, your runes, and whatever else you like to read and we will trade readings! If you don't have experience that's ok, we have a variety of levels of experience to help and we don't mind if you use the book!

Our next ritual is Mabon, on September 23rd at 6pm. Jackson and Leigh Mileur will lead the Autumn Equinox ritual in 2019, with the theme of calling on local spirits of landscape features and honoring our desert environment. Bring your monsoon rainwater and a snack that reflects our local desert culture to share!

Childcare available upon request; email Jamili at DRE.uuct@gmail.com.

Pagan tip of the month

Do you ever feel a little unrooted? Try grounding techniques!

- Imagine tree roots growing out of your feet and reaching deep into the earth, twining themselves around and anchoring you to the land.
- Eat a little something heavy, dense bread for example.
- Hold a crystal, a black one can help absorb unwanted energy (black tourmaline or onyx).
- Lay down on the ground and feel it beneath you.
- Put your feet in warm water and feel the currents as you swirl your toes around.

Have a pagan tip to share for a future newsletter?

Email sazcuups@uuctucson.org. All traditions are welcome!
The Tucson PRIDE march and after event are set for Saturday, September 28, 2019. Last year we marched 28 strong in the nearly unbearable heat. But we DID it! Plan to join us again this year.

Additionally, our group is hosting a booth at the after parade event. We still need several volunteers to help person the booth for a one or two hour shift to speak with potential 'new' members, please let us know. If your group is interested please contact Eve at eh.wordsmith@gmail.com. Our regular meetings are USUALLY the second Sunday of each month, 12:15-1:15. However, this month, because so many of us will want to attend the 2nd Hour, we will postpone our meeting for one week and meet September 15. (Room to be announced).

All are welcome! Pronoun stickers available at Welcome Table in Holland. For info contact Eve: eh.wordsmith@gmail.com

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Calling All Creative People!

We have scheduled a Craft Fair on December 7 and 8th at the church. We invite all of you interested in selling things you have made to participate. We hope there will be quilts and other fabric items, jewelry of all kinds, photographs, watercolors, paintings, collages, and cards. Sculptures are also welcome. Christmas ornaments are great sellers. People of all ages are welcome to participate, so get your children to make some potholders, or bracelets, or hair decorations to bring and sell. Painted rocks are fun too.

So use these hot summer months to get your creative juices flowing and get to work. How about some garden stepping stones made from mosaic of stones and shells cast in concrete? Weavers can create everything from placemats to shawls. Okay knitters, bring some of your creations too.

Poets, how about some little books of poetry? Or a short story or two. Maybe there is a graphic novelist amongst us who would like to try out some stories. Today’s computers make it so easy.

Watch this space for more detail as we get closer to the event. This is just to get your started building an inventory ready to sell. As usual, 25% of total sales will go to the church. Let’s get started!

Margot Garcia - Knitter, quilter, beader, etc

In the "Last But Not Least" Column...

Guess who just had his 90th Birthday?

Congratulations, Rodney Lowell! May all who know you be fortunate enough to enjoy many more years of the kind human being you are.