Rev. Bethany Russell-Lowe

Singer-songwriter and performance artist, Amanda Palmer, gave a compelling TEDTalk a few years ago. It’s called “The Art of Asking.” She traces her personal experience as a mime on city streets, where she asked for spare change in exchange for flowers, to her career as a scrappy, punk-oriented musician who put together international tours via Twitter.

In the TEDxTalk she explains why she left a major record label and started giving away her music for free. She says: “…the media asked, ‘Amanda, the music business is tanking and you encourage piracy. How did you make all these people pay for music?’ And the real answer is, I didn’t make them. I asked them.”

This counter cultural approach to professional musicianship worked for Palmer. She raised over $1.2 million on Kickstarter for her first independent album. And her house concerts are always sold out, whether they were in rural Illinois or Berlin, Germany.

Because Palmer was generous with her art those recipients of her art were grateful in return. And, although financial gains were not the goal, her fans consistently came through. Not by any accident but through an intentionally planned culture of generosity.

This is the type of generosity that we are about. Later this month, you’ll start hearing from me and our Pledge Campaign Team about funding the budget for next church year. I hope that when you consider your pledge you will see your contribution as part of a mutual exchange of generosity.

We are in the business of affirming your dignity and challenging you to transform your life. Your dignity and transformation. No one can put a price on that. There is no transaction to be had.

I hope you will give generously this year, and only you know what that means to you.

See you in church,
Rev. Bethany

All Hands on Deck! Campus Work Hour on February 9th

Come one, come all! Sunday, February 9th will be a Board-sponsored campus work hour from 10:30 - 11:30 (in place of worship). Make sure you wear your garden pants, rather than your slacks and dresses. And bring a pair of garden gloves if you have them.

We will start, as we do all Sundays, in Holland all together at 10:30. Then, we will break into teams with specific assignments.

Are you an accomplished window washer? Do you love pulling weeds? Want to go check out the labyrinth...and pick up some trash along the way? We will definitely need your help on February 9th!

If you are not able to clean and spruce, you are welcome to stay in Holland from 10:30 - 11:30 and share your favorite memories of our beautiful campus. After an hour or so, we will reconvene in Goddard for the usual drinks, food, and fellowship. Our Second Hour activities that day will focus on service projects to contribute to our wider Tucson community.

All are needed for this campus work day. Let’s see how much we can accomplish when we focus all of our energies on our

Jamili Omar
Director, LFD
2nd Hour and more

Calling All
"Weather Trackers"
Feb. 2 | 12:30-1:30pm | Awareness Room

Have you ever wondered how things get decided for RE, LFD, and 2nd Hour? Are you interested in getting involved with activities but aren’t quite ready to face a classroom of participants? Do you have some time to give us feedback about what you’ve seen and what you’d like to see?

Consider attending the "Weather Trackers" meeting!

This team will be composed of folks from across the church to "track the weather" in and around Lifespan Faith Development programming. (Sunday Morning RE, 2nd Hour, Thursday Night Lights, TUUYA, Parenting Club, and etc.) Share your thoughts and input!

Contact Jamili here to brainstorm ideas.

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Evening Worship: February 20, 6-8PM, Holland Hall

The Deep Work of Love

When love beckons to you, follow him, though his ways are hard and steep...

For even as love crowns you so shall he crucify you. Even as he is for your growth so is he for your pruning. Even as he ascends to your height and caresses your tenderest branches that quiver in the sun, so shall he descend to your roots and shake them in their clinging to the earth.

Kahlil Gibran "The Prophet"

Each service begins at 5:30 p.m. with a Bring Your Own Dinner to eat with friends.

At 6 p.m. we will start a 45 minute service with a dessert
Worship Schedule
February 2020

February 2 - Rev. Bethany, WA Celeste Rogers. "Don't Yuck My Yum"

February 9 - Rev. Bethany WA, Brenda Lundt All-Congregational Workday (See details under Rev. Bethany above)

February 16 - Rev. Bethany, WA Preston McMillan "For Our Common Ground" (Intergenerational)

February 23 - Rev. Bethany, WA Nina Tolley "When the Gods are Asleep"

Quiz: Can you name the most F-U-N event at UUCT since last year's Auction? If you guessed THIS year's auction you are correct! Save the date, February 8th from 5-8:30 for our fabulous UUCT Auction. Tickets on sale now for $15 for auction and dinner. We are still accepting auction items too. Purchase tickets in Goddard on Sunday or online here. Feeling lucky? 50/50 raffle tickets are also available!

Do You MUURP?

February 27 | 6-8pm | Goddard Hall

After a very successful first game, we will be holding another Monthly UU Role-Playing group or MUURP. Jim Myers will be running the fifth edition Dungeons & Dragons adventure: Dragon of Icespire Peak. Children as young as 12 are welcome to attend with parental supervision. Jim will provide characters for new players, but if you would like to learn to make a character, plan on coming a half hour early.

Contact Jim at jemyers82@gmail.com with additional questions.

UUCTucson FINANCES JANUARY 2020
JD Garcia - VP of Finance

Thanks to you, the state of the finances of our UUCT is very good. At the end of the first half of the fiscal year, we had a significant upward trend in pledge income (see the Board Report from Finances for the January Board meeting). We expected to have received $128,210 from pledges (1/2 the total). We are $21,921 ahead of this. Other major categories are close to their expected values, so that:

- both income and expenses for this fiscal year are close to, but above their expected values;
- No More Deaths Wages, Income and expenses are equal; and,
- YTD, income is ahead of expenses.

As we have discussed before, we first must remove the No More Deaths (NMD) wages from our Quickbooks numbers to see how UUCT is doing. We also can keep track of the money transfers from and to our Money Market Funds (MMF) where we keep our Restricted Funds and other Non-Operating Fund money. The MMF earns us about an average pledge's worth of income per year. We see that the NMD wages income and expense totals are equal, so that NMD has no net effect on UUCT net income.

After accounting for known factors, the above conclusions do not change: we expect UUCT this
year to continue to do well financially, provided that current trends are maintained. That is good news, but it will only come true if you and I continue to keep our pledges up to date, and have lots of fun bidding on wonderful things at the auction on February 8th!

See you at the Auction!
JD Garcia, Vice President for Finances

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Board of Trustees</th>
<th>Our Kitchen Ministry Needs Help!</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In 2013 the Congregation adopted its most recent 5 Year Strategic Plan for church years from 2014 to 2019. The plan is available <a href="#">here</a> in the members section of our website. It makes for interesting reading as a historical and aspiration document. It met with modest success due to resource limitations (people and money), which were particularly acute during this period, and ambitions with many goals. It also was largely forgotten during the challenges of the transition years of 2016 to 2019. However, we can celebrate the achievements of the plan in a wrap-up report <a href="#">here</a>.</td>
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<td>Kitchen crew will now be serving lunch <em>only on 2nd Sundays</em> due to lack of volunteers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Board of Trustees, minister and staff met in January to look toward the next five years. Learning the lessons of the previous Strategic Plan, we are looking to define a smaller set of realistic goals which this and future Boards can use to work towards in achievable steps. We have only just started the process. Rather than a less flexible comprehensive 5 year plan the goals will be revisited and adjusted more frequently. In other words, this is a tool to guide your Board of Trustees, minister, and staff.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sign up to join kitchen ministry on the polka dot bulletin board by the kitchen.</td>
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<tr>
<td>So where do you, the congregation, fit in? We pledge to communicate the goals, the steps being taken, and celebrate our successes in our Town Halls, newsletters and emails and our Annual Report. More importantly, the steps needed to achieve the goals will require your support with your pledges, time, and, for the largest goals, a capital campaign.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Please remember we need enhanced donations to keep this going forward and still need kitchen volunteers.</td>
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<td>For example, everyone recognizes the goal of improving our facilities to include a new heating and cooling plant, paving and expanding our parking, expanding our worship space that is nearly full most Sundays in the winter, adding meeting space, and making our social hall more &quot;social&quot; and comfortable. So be warned, we want to move forward to a better UUCT that can only be achieved through your hard work, and financing beyond our yearly budgets.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Our theme is: <a href="#">Common Ground</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Another example goal is related to our experience of considerable growth in membership and a moving to a more year-round church. To fulfill that goal we might need to increase staff and provide all staff fair compensation within our budgets. This is driven by the many demands to better serve you with programming, ministry, volunteer support, office hours, and community life. You might consider this as you pledge this year starting later this month.</td>
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<td>&quot;In a circle of friends, in a circle of sound. All the voices will blend when we touch common ground.&quot;</td>
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<td>The Stewardship drive begins February 16th and a free lunch will be served after the service. You will soon receive a letter in the mail with pledge card, brochure and letter from the Rev. Bethany.</td>
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<tr>
<td>You can pledge online, by handing in your pledge card at church, or by mail. We can accept credit/debit cards, gift transfers or by giving stock shares.</td>
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<tr>
<td>We are part of a community, a circle of friends, that welcomes and loves us for who we are. What does this community mean to you?</td>
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<tr>
<td>It is our church - <a href="#">Our Common Ground</a>. We need your help to keep this community going and growing. We can't take care of ourselves or others without your support. Please PLEDGE.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thank you, Deb Collinge, Stewardship</td>
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</tbody>
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Social Justice Council
We have only just started in this process, and feedback will guide our steps. As the familiar adage advises, we will not be able to do everything but we can do something.

Healthy Congregations Team and Workshop
Save the Date! March 21, 2020

In the Congregational Forum on November 17th, we introduced the newly formed Healthy Congregations Team (HCT).

The HCT’s primary role is to facilitate conflict resolution/transformation between members of the congregation. They will not facilitate conflict between members and staff.

The members of the HCT are: Aston Bloom, Bob Gordon, Burt Meek, Carolyn Cooper, and Marsha Newcomb. If you experience a conflict with another member and want assistance engaging in this conflict in a healthy way you can reach out to any of these team members directly.

You can also get in touch with the team over email at: hct@uuctucson.org (this will send an email to the whole team, as well as Rev. Bethany).

More information will be available as the date gets closer. Mark your calendars now!

Quilting Group
Join us for quilting and conversation every Wednesday at 2pm in Servetus
Join the group and make some great new friends!

ILIVED Training
Saturday, February 29th 9 AM - 5 PM

Your Board of Trustees and Minister have scheduled an ILIVED training for UUCT members to learn about how to respond if our campus were to become the target of an armed intruder in the future. While the likelihood of such a catastrophic event is very low, your leaders have heard a desire to prepare ourselves and learn about the most effective responses. Here is a description of the event from ICSAVE, the organization that will facilitate the training:

"This six-hour course is designed to educate the public on how they can mitigate the loss of life if they find themselves in a violent intruder incident. The goal of ILIVED training is for participants to recognize the need for immediate response to these types of incidents, recognize ways they may intervene, and empower them to make a difference in the event."

This training will take place on Saturday, February 29th from 9 AM - 5 PM. This event is FREE. Please bring $5 for a pizza/salad lunch or bring a bag lunch. If you have a dietary restriction and want pizza email Mary Wiese by February 26.

To register RSVP to Mary Wiese (mwiese@uuctucson.org)

Be a UUA Volunteer
March 14/15: UU Booth at UA Book Fest

Over 100,000 people attend this festival each year, with many seeing and stopping at the UU Booth. As a result of this exposure, our churches always have people who visit shortly thereafter. To volunteer in the booth click on the link below to sign up. You only need to be at the booth for 3 hours. Questions? Contact Erin Chadwell, Administrator at MVUU at 520 579-7094
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508054AACAA2CAF49-tucson2

Welcoming and Membership Team Report
Beth Britton

Newcomers, please note the next "Getting to Know UU: Newcomer Breakfast and Orientation will be held..."
What Is Waxing?

Our Second Sunday class offering this month is Paganism 101! On February 9th starting at 12:30, we will talk about all things pagan. This is a child friendly event, but childcare is available by emailing Jamili at dre.uuct@gmail.com to request it.

Join us for Imbolc Ritual on Saturday, February 1st at 6 pm. Ana Ortiz will lead us in this cross-quarter ritual. Bring a snack to share (carpet-friendly, please).

This is a child friendly event, but childcare is available by emailing Jamili at dre.uuct@gmail.com to request it.

Pagan tip of the month

Since February is that capitalist dream of love month, why not try a love spell--for helping you love yourself more!

Some items that symbolize love you can use in a jar, on your altar, put in a warm bath, or tuck under your pillow are: rose quartz, heart shapes, the color red or pink, rose scents, the Strength tarot card, rosemary.

A simple repeated mantra "I am enough and worthy of love" can be a great way to invoke the energy of self love into your life.

Have a pagan tip to share? Email sazuups@uuctucson.com

All traditions welcome!

Southern Arizona CUUPS: A Chapter of the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans
Mail: Southern Arizona CUUPS c/o UUCT, 4831 E. 22nd Street, Tucson, AZ 85711
Web: http://uuctucson.org/worship/sazuups.html Email: sazuups@uuctucson.org
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/SAZCUUPS/ (FB messages can be sent to m.me/SAZCUUPS)
Chat group: https://www.facebook.com/groups/190164578242015

Grief and Loss Group

Every Sunday 12:15-1:15 p.m. Reed Room

For those experiencing a difficult time after the loss of a loved one, a pet, a job, or any other significant loss, UUCT holds a Grief and Loss support group.

There you can find recovery in the caring and comfort of other church members (and friends) who are also grieving a loss.

Mystical Experiences Group

The servers are cute (see photo above) and it’s free! (Donations will gratefully be accepted.)

Please plan to join us on the THIRD Sunday of each month from 12 - 1 p.m. in the Blackwell room.

Next meeting, February 16.
Contact us here if you have questions: lgbtqai@uuctucson.org

All are welcome!
Pronoun stickers available at Welcome Table in Holland.

Tucson UU Younger Adults (TUUYA) Meet Ups

Do you identify as a young adult (generations X, Y, or Z)? Would you like to meet up with other RUU young adults? TUUYA regularly hosts events and meet ups.

To stay in the loop make sure that Janice (janicesignin@gmail.com) or Jamili (dre.uuct@gmail.com) has your email or join us on Facebook: by searching Tucson RUU Younger Adults (TUUYA).

LGBTQIA+ Group

Our next event is an Ice Cream Sunday and Mulled Cider Social, February 2nd in Goddard Hall.

Save the Date: NMD Fundraiser February 13, 2019
Have you had prophetic dreams? A near death experience? Do you follow the messages of your intuition, etc.? Do you typically keep these amazing aspects of yourself hidden, knowing that many people would probably think you’re a nut case.

The Mystical Experiences Group is for folks like you...and me. It will be a private meeting in a private space, and best of all NO NAY-SAYERS OR VOYEURS allowed.

February 2, 2020. 12:30PM in Servetus Room
Facilitator: Ronna James
ronnajames70@gmail.com
(217) 355-0601 call, text or email for questions.

UU the VOTE

No More Deaths/No Mas Muertes is excited to announce that critically acclaimed author Luis Alberto Urrea is once again coming to Tucson to host a fundraiser to support our work.

Mr. Urrea is the author of The Devil's Highway and 16 other books, which reflect his cross-cultural experiences as a Mexican-American. Born in Tijuana, Mexico to an American mother and a Mexican father, Urrea is best known as a "border writer."

Mr. Urrea was recently named a Guggenheim Fellow and is a distinguished professor of creative writing at the University of Illinois-Chicago.

The event will take place at the El Casino Ballroom, 427 E 26th Street, on Thursday, February 13th, 2020. A reception with the author at 5:30 p.m. precedes the main program, which will begin at 7:00 pm. Tickets are currently available at NOMOREDEATHS.BROWNPAPERTICKETS.COM at two levels: reception and program ($60) or for the program alone ($40).

TBIRDS By the Numbers - Howard Tolley

24 Winter members, visitors and Friends attended the second city wide seasonal pot luck in January.

All 58 are invited to the upcoming Monday February 10 potluck at 6 pm in Goddard and the final two seasonal gatherings on March 10 and April 13. RSVP to howard.tolley@gmail.com or bring a dish unannounced.

Please provide your own plates and utensils so that we do not need volunteers to do cleanup of the church’s place settings.

22 TBIRDS are UUCT Winter members and 9 are Winter Friends. The TBIRD Winter 2020 Who’s Who posted on the UUCT website under programs at https://uuctucson.org/programs/social-justice-3.html includes an additional 27 seasonal Visitors and provides two addresses. contact emails, arrival and departure dates.

TBIRDS at UUCT come from 18 states, Alabama to Washington, with the largest contingent of 13. Minnesota and NY are next with 7 and 6 respectively.

New TBIRD member sign up forms are at Goddard Welcome Center. For more information or to sign up for the google group mailing list go to: https://groups.google.com/d/forum/tbirds-uuct

Book Club - Thursday, February 27th

The next UU Book Club will meet Thursday February 27th at 9:30 at the home of Margo Newhouse. The group is reading Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Questions? Contact Margo Newhouse at: margonewhouse25@hotmail.com or 784-1198.

Come Join the UUCT Happy Hour Group!

When: Fourth Fridays of the month 4-
7 pm
Date of Next Gathering: February 28
Where: On the Border, at north side of Broadway between Swan and Craycroft.

Cheap prices for food and drink. We may try other places eventually. Just show up and ask for the UU's (if questions, email SandyOngley@hotmail.com)
https://www.ontheborder.com/happyhour?loc=broadway-tucson-az

UU Day at the Legislature
President's Day, Monday, February 17th 2020.
Janine Gelsinger

For many years, this is a day where UUs from around the state have come to the Capitol to meet in person with their state representatives and state senators. If you are planning to attend, sign up here.

Based on the feedback you sent, this year's UU DATL will continue to focus on appointments with your legislators. We will not be encouraging folks to stay for an entire day of programming. We are asking folks who are "captains" in your districts to schedule their appointments between 11-1. We will gather for an update on the UU values in the legislature around 10.

You can add your appointment time to this schedule, if you are a captain: https://doodle.com/poll/y7g2wie9dndxmgz

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

An Invitation to the UUA Common Read:
An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz

You are invited to join the reading and discussion of the 2019-2020 UUA Common Read, An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz. https://www.uua.org/books/read
Audiobook @ https://www.audible.com/pd/An-Indigenous-Peoples-History-of-the-United-States-Audiobook/B00P1RW1CC

The UUA website reminds us of the following: A common read invites participants to read and discuss the same book in a given period of time and can build community in our congregations and our movement by giving diverse people a shared experience, shared language, and a basis for deep, meaningful conversations.

The year 2020 marks the 400th anniversary of the much-mythologized encounter at Plymouth between colonists and those native to the land. The UUA General Assembly 2020, in Providence, RI, will speak to the truths that contradict the mythology. This Common Read invites UU congregations, communities, and individuals to learn the story of trauma and resilience that is the Indigenous Peoples’ History of the United States.

Steve's words: I found facing US history in An Indigenous Peoples’ History of the United States to be hard, a painful reality, a heartrending Trail of Tears. Many times, I had to put it aside, just had to walk away from it. I had to admit that I was ignorant of this history of my own country, and resentful of the lies my teachers told me and my textbooks taught. I learned that the land in Tucson to which I hold a deed and the land on which our UUCT sanctuary is built, are the traditional and stolen land of the Tohono O’odham people. (See the Native Land website: https://native-land.ca/).

When I finished our Common Read, Rev. Meg Riley’s words resonated with me: “I knew more profoundly the horrors which white people have unleashed on Black and brown bodies in my country.


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Book: A Black Women's History of the United States (Revisioning History)

by Daina Ramey Berry and Kali Nicole Gross
Publication Date: 2/4/2020

From Beacon Press: A vibrant and empowering history that emphasizes the perspectives and stories of African American women to show how they are—and have always been—instrumental in shaping our country.

Daina Ramey Berry and Kali Nicole Gross offer an examination and celebration of Black womanhood, beginning with the first African women who arrived in what became the United States to African American women of today.
Community conversations to follow.

“They (white people) are, in effect, still trapped in a history which they do not understand; and until they understand it, they cannot be released from it.” James Baldwin, The Fire Next Time.

If interested, please contact Steve Kraynak at: sckraynak@gmail.com