



Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura • 5654 Ralston Street • Ventura, CA • 805/644-3898 • www.uuventura.org

**“Shake, Fold”:
An Entertaining Tip from
7PEAT**
by Jim Merrill

Have you ever been in a public restroom and watched someone pull out four or five paper towels from the dispenser, crumple them in his hands, and toss them? I have.

In this amusing TED Talk, Joe Smith shows us, with audience participation, how to use only one paper towel effectively: <http://bit.ly/OneTowel>

Note:
You can hear podcasts of our sermons on Sound Cloud <https://soundcloud.com/user-753499923/sets/uucv-sermons> and at our website www.uuventura.org.

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Sunday Services

Music: 9:45AM Service: 10AM



January's Theme is Possibility

A sense of possibility has distinguished Unitarian Universalists from our beginnings. Historically, when others saw depravity and sin at the core of human identity, we saw potential.... When many preached about the world as “fallen” looking to the hope of an afterlife, we fell in love with the possibility of heaven on earth. Theologically, we believed that God hadn’t given up on anyone, so we shouldn’t give up on each other or the world. We have become a people of “why not?” Why not give people another chance, fight what seems a losing battle, or even risk a little failure? For the possible has always seemed more likely than not. – from the Soul Matters program.

**Jan. 6 – The Perfect and the Good:
a Fire Communion service**

*Rev. Dana Worsnop and
Worship Associate Chuck Samonsky*

Jan. 13 – The Possibility of Pluralism

*Rev. Lora Young and
Worship Associates Joe Hutchins and Celia Ortenberg*
Join Rev. Lora Young as she explores the roots of our diversity as UU’s, the importance of dissent (even among ourselves) and how learning to live well in the midst of diverse perspectives can deepen our own experience of life.

Jan. 20 – The Top X? Percent

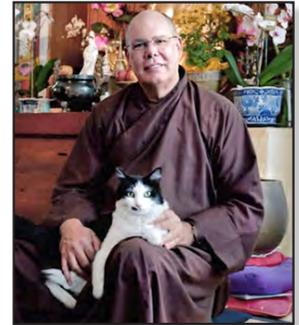
*Rev. Dana Worsnop and
Worship Associate Krista Mendelsohn*

Jan. 27 – Endless Possibilities

*Rev. Dana Worsnop and
Worship Associate Sue Brinkmeyer*

Day of Mindfulness
**Renewal for the New Year
with Venerable Kusala**

Saturday • Jan 12 • 9:30AM - 4PM



Join us for a special full day of mindfulness practice; sitting meditation, walking meditation and eating meditation

More information and registration at www.FriendshipSangha.org/com or in Berg Hall at the Adult Programs table. Registering will help us plan.

Bring a ready to serve vegetarian dish for the potluck lunch and a sitting cushion and mat, if you have them

We will provide serving utensils, herb teas, water, fruit and nut snacks throughout the day and chairs for all and some sitting cushions and mats
A gratitude offering gratefully accepted at the door, but not required (\$35 suggested).

Find out more about Kusala at urbandharma.org/kusalainfo.

*Sponsored by the Friendship Sangha of the Heart,
an Adult Program of the UUCV.*

“Like” the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura on Facebook. It’s one more way to stay connected.

We, the members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura, united by our liberal religious tradition, seek truths, and meaning, and commit to right action. We will nurture our congregation and carry our principles forth to better ourselves, our community, and our planet. To these purposes, we pledge our hearts and hands, our minds and means.

MINISTER'S COLUMN

With the New Year I offer this refresher on my schedule, how best to reach me, and other (hopefully) useful info.

My workweek is Saturday through Thursday. Friday is my day off, Saturday is my writing day, and Sunday is, well, Sunday. After church comes my standing date with Barzillai the Cat. I lie on the couch and he lies on me. I scratch his ears; he purrs; I can even nap – a good arrangement.

I'm essentially on call 24 hours and 7 days a week.

It's daunting, and I want y'all to know I also take advantage of a flexible schedule. If I've got a meeting at night, I often won't come in till noon or later. I work 6 days a week, though if it's ten hours one day, it may be four the next.

I usually work about 45-50 hours a week. It's been 60 or more, though that is pretty rare. After a particularly long week, I'll ease off a bit the next.

I attend some, though not all, church events on Fridays. When I do, I'll make up for it another day.

The best way to reach me is email: rev.dana.worsnop@uuventura.org, or on my cell phone (which is in the directory). If you need me quickly, texting is best. In general, please don't call or text on Fridays. And if you email me late-ish on Thursday or a Friday, you make not get a reply until Monday.

I also prefer not to be called or texted before 9AM or after 9PM.

I trust you to figure out if your issue is urgent enough to reach out on those days and other hours.

If you have an emergency, do not hesitate. If you cannot decide if you have an urgency or an emergency, also do not hesitate.

I don't hold specific office hours, though I usually can make appointments within 2-3 days. The best days are Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

We hold staff meetings on Tuesdays. Because we work on the orders of service then, it's best if you can have information in to Jennifer by Monday afternoon.

A final note about Sundays – and this is true for all Sunday staff. Sunday is our biggest day of the week. We know it's a good time for you to be in touch with us, though we can be tired and scattered. We may not be able to answer your questions or even remember them on Monday. And we just can't get with everyone. So your patience is much appreciated.

I look forward to our new year ahead – with the whole congregation and our wonderful staff team.

Happiest of New Years.

Love,

Rev. Dana



News from UUCV's Action Team for Immigrants' Rights (ATIR) by Ray Vargas

The ATIR was formed in late Fall by the congregation's Social Action Coordination Committee, with Silvia Hutchins as liaison. All are invited to attend ATIR gatherings. Come and learn the many ways to help in this work. The next General meeting is January 14 in Berg Hall at 6PM. Contact Ruth Capelle (ruth.capelle@gmail.com) to be added to the mailing list.

Alarmed by the treatment and suffering at the U.S.-Mexico border and in local communities, ATIR members joined several inter-faith actions in December calling for just and humane immigration policies.

On December 4, ATIR members, including Rev. Dana, attended a Public Hearing of the Ventura Co. Bd. of Supervisors to urge support of SB-54, the California Values Act, to end deportation or separation of families arising from the county sheriff's agreements with the local ICE detention center.

On December 9, unfurling the banner: No Human Being Is Illegal, UUCV members including Rev. Dana participated in a Vigil organized by the Ventura area Clergy & Laity United for Economic Justice (CLUE) at the Ventura Government Center. Over 60 persons participated. Ministers, priests, a rabbi and deacons spoke with messages calling for respect and the moral imperative for people of faith to stand with people seeking asylum who have been shut out of our country. A brief ceremony included readings of letters written by caravan asylum seekers.

At the ATIR monthly meeting December 17, we listened to a moving account by Rev. Dana describing her experiences at the U.S. border fence where she took part on Dec.10, in a large inter-faith action, Love Knows No Borders – A moral call for migrant justice.

At the Dec. 17 ATIR meeting, a Mission Statement was adopted beginning with: "Just as love knows no borders, our dedication to justice reaches across boundaries and walls. As Unitarian Universalists we stand on the side of love with all families regardless of citizenship and/or immigrant status, and strive to create welcoming communities and congregations. No human being is illegal."

Newsletter Submittals

We value your contributions and very much appreciate email submittals.

Send email submissions for
On Common Ground to
newsletter@uuventura.org



Next Newsletter Deadline
January 20 at Noon

Next issue is February 2019

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NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

"Good endings make for good beginnings"

A phrase that I first heard at the UUCV and that I have found to be true. With all of the troubles that 2018 brought, I hope that there was also sunshine in your life and, no matter what your current situation, that you are looking forward to the promise of a fresh start with 2019.

Unlike the Calendar year our Church year runs from July 1 to June 30. That means we are at the mid-year point and due for some reflection in keeping with the season. The UUCV turned 60 last November and I doubt that our founders would recognize our church today given their humble beginnings. Evidence of those early days can be found in the photos in Berg Hall back in the corner by the piano. The folks who started this congregation didn't have very much. They didn't own a building to call their own, they hardly had any money, the minister was the only paid staff. What did they have? They had each other and a Vision of liberal religion. That still holds true for us today. Clearly, we have exceeded anything that could have been imagined by our founders. When I think about the UUCV (which is often) my thoughts are about the growth of the congregation spiritually, our Social Action ministries, our Religious Education programming, our Worship experiences, and how these activities help us live into our values.

We are a growing, vibrant congregation that is actively engaged in several lay ministries that include aiding the homeless, protecting our environment, human rights, immigration, and economic justice. We show up at City and County meetings, at rallies, vigils, marches, and a host of meetings attended by our partners in the community. These are some of the many ways that Members and Friends of the UUCV walk the talk of our 7 Principles.

Our Children's Religious Education program is amazing! The energy of the volunteer teachers, the engagement of the kids, and the enthusiasm of the parents reflect the hard work of our DRE Emily Carroll and all who volunteer and help with this ministry.

We are engaged in a new 5-year planning process to discern who we are and where we want to go, creating a new vision and updating our mission with the help of the 5-4-5 Team. This important work involves all of us and turns out best when you include your voice in the processes that are planned to be able to hear your input for our future.

Our financial picture is a source of concern but is seen as manageable with more information to be discussed at our Congregational Conversation on the 27. The meeting will provide information that will help the Finance Budget Team in the development of our next budget for 2019-20. This will be a big step in charting a course to "right sizing" our congregation.

These are just some of the reasons why we are a healthy congregation. We have much to offer each other, our local community, and the world. That's a really great place to begin as we start our journey into the possibilities of 2019..

Living in Paradise,

Bryan Buck, UUCV Board President

Social Action and More

"Wherever there is a human being, there is an opportunity for a kindness." Seneca

Lift Up Your Voice (LUYV)

by Kathy Powell

Lift Up Your Voice was very busy this December. We fed many people at Family to Family where we serve about 150 folks monthly on the first Monday.

Our congregation put on the annual Homeless Neighbor Memorial. This time we were remembering 69 people, the most we had ever honored.

We put on a Holiday Party for our speakers, a BBQ, fellowship and gifts. What a year we have shared, butterflies fluttering before speaking engagements, mobilizing to gather trash in the riverbottom and just forming a new community all of us.

And thanks to this UU community, our Safe Sleepers will be staying for a few nights in motels for Christmas – what a blessing.

UUSC Guest at your Table WindDown

If you weren't able to get your Guest at Your Table Box envelope to UUCV on Christmas Eve, leave it at the Social Action Table by January 13. Envelopes can also be mailed to UUSC directly or you can donate on line at <https://www.uusc.org/resources/congregations/guest-at-your-table/> **Remember to note you are from the UU Church of Ventura.** Convert the cash and coinage at home, write a check, or bring it and we will convert it.

All donations of \$125 are matched by Shelter Rock UU Church. Donations of \$40 or more gets you a UUSC membership. Find out more about UUSC <http://www.uusc.org>

Start the Year Green

Every Sunday, one church volunteer helps save the planet by avoiding the use of paper cups by taking 40 or so white GUEST mugs home to wash in the dishwasher and returns them for the next Sunday. This is odd, since we never have anywhere near 40 guests at our Sunday services. It seems some folks (members or friends of the church) are choosing to use a Guest mug rather than their own coffee cup. Let's start the new year right, and change that! Each Sunday in January, we will have pens so you can refresh your name on your cup or, if you don't have a regular mug, choose one from the large supply of un-claimed mugs add your name, and place it on a shelf. Then, each week forever more, you can grab your own mug, and volunteers can take home the white mugs we put out by the coffee and tea pots each week for our GUESTS and visitors.

We will also have out a poster where you can sign up to take the white mugs used by GUESTS home, wash them and return them. Ideally, the volunteer who takes the Guest mugs home also will put out the washing station for those using their own mugs.

January Inreach/Outreach

January 6: Starr King and Meadville Lombard Scholarship Fund Starr King School for the Ministry and Meadville Lombard Theological School are our two Unitarian Universalist identified seminaries. Ministerial education is expensive,

and each school has only a small scholarship fund. Funding would help our future UU ministers graduate with less debt and be more financially secure as they embark on service to our UU faith.

January 13: LUYV Save Sleep Program helps people who are homeless who are often forced to let their car registration, driver's license and car insurance lapse for lack of funds. Donations will help people in the Safe Sleep program get insurance, license and/or registration as needed. Two thirds of our Safe Sleep guests have moved on to some form of housing by participating in the program.

January 20: LUYV Park Outreach helps the homeless men and women who are in our city parks find their way forward in life as we meet them as friends and as people worthy of dignity, respect, and life necessities. We provide bus passes necessary to access *One Stop* where they can get health cover-

age, food stamps, assistance with jobs, and help from case managers as well as sign up for all available services. We help people complete the steps to move toward housing. This work is a reminder there is no available year-round shelter, no place for homeless to go during the day and a lack of adequate low-income housing.

January 27: The Townies, Inc connects people, with emphasis on developing and amplifying voices from VC's marginalized communities. Funds will go to Voces Indígenas for a 10-week class for the Oxnard-based Mixteco/Indigenous Community Organizing Project (MICOP) and their multilingual youth group, Tequio. The students write, edit, rehearse and prepare a performance, the result being an evening of original material touching on subjects such as farmworkers' rights, DACA, the dreams of young immigrants and more.

Inreach/Outreach Recipients

Your generosity toward those who ask for our help continues to be amazing!

November 11 - Ventura Homeless Prevention Fund - \$876.67

November 18 : Family to Family Program- \$924

November 25: UUCV Inreach/ Outreach- \$729.25

December 2: Social Justice Fund of Ventura County - \$617.59

December 9: Buddy Nation - \$936.85

Thanks so much for all your generous donations!



Religious Education January 2019



	January 6	January 13	January 20	January 27
NURSERY	WE PROVIDE A CARING ENVIRONMENT FOR OUR TODDLERS AND INFANTS TO NURTURE THEIR EMOTIONAL AND INTELLECTUAL GROWTH WITH PLANNED ACTIVITIES AND ROUTINES.			
PRE-K RAINBOW CONNECTION	MAKE SOMEONE SMILE	IT'S NICE TO SHARE	IT'S GOOD TO FORGIVE	IT'S GOOD TO BE ME!
GRADES K-2 PICTURE BOOK UU	FANNY IN THE KITCHEN	PSALM 23	GRANDAD'S PRAYER FOR THE EARTH	ON THE NIGHT YOU WERE BORN
GRADES 3-5 SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE	DOGGY TREATS & HENRY BERGH	SAVING LIVES	A SPECIAL DOCTOR	LEARN FIRST AID
GRADES 6-8 JEDI ACADEMY	SENSE OF SMELL	SENSE OF TASTE	SENSE OF TOUCH	MASTERS OF THE FORCE
GRADES 9+	DISCUSSION GROUP ON THE SOUL MATTERS MONTHLY THEME: POSSIBILITY! WE HOPE THEY FIND FRIENDSHIP AND SUPPORT AMONG THEIR PEERS.			

NEWS from Religious Education • Emily Carroll, DRE

Dear UUCV Community,

One of my favorite nuggets of wisdom from Vietnamese Zen Master, Thich Nhat Hanh, is there are always infinite reasons to be happy. When we have a toothache, we are so sure that we would be so happy if our toothache would go away. But once we are out of pain, we are still not happy!

He encourages us to seek out all of the “non-toothaches” available to us in every moment, even if we are in prison. I believe it is from this centered place of love and contentment that we are able to create real change in the world.

“How do we cultivate the muscle of radical imagination needed to dream together beyond fear?” asks author Adrienne Marie Brown.

One expert on imagination is Anne of Green Gables: “Isn’t it splendid to think of all the things there are to find out about? It just makes me feel glad to be alive--it’s such an interesting world. It wouldn’t be half so interesting if we know all about everything, would it? There’d be no scope for imagination then, would there?” ~ L.M. Montgomery

With gratitude to this community that grows, learns, seeks new possibilities together!

Emily Carroll, Director of Religious Education
emily@uuventura.org



January Birthdays

6 - Emera, 13 - James,
 23 - Mary Walker,
 27 - Claire and Leif

January Events

Wednesday, January 9
 Religious Education Team Meeting

Saturday, January 12 • 5PM
 UU Parenting Group & Potluck

Sunday, January 13
 Our Whole Lives Grades 7-9
 Parent Orientation

Friday, January 18 • 7:30PM
 Young Adult Discussion & Dinner

Sunday, January 27
 Our Whole Lives Program Begins!

UU Things To Do • Adult Programs

Adult Programs is bursting with opportunities for connection, reflection and growth. Check the newsletter and Adult Programs Board for info about additional classes. For information on ongoing programs, pick up an Adult Programs brochure at the AP Bulletin Board in Berg Hall. **Programs are open to all unless otherwise indicated.**



Meditation and Buddhist Practice

with Friendship Sangha of the Heart
Monday • 7PM • Church Sanctuary

• **Evening of Mindfulness** includes sitting and walking meditation, a dharma reading and dharma sharing. All are welcome.

<http://FriendshipSangha.org/meditation>

• **Intro to Meditation** Monday, January 14 at 6:30PM in Sanctuary. Information:

FriendshipSangha@gmail.com

Contact: Neal Ortenberg 805/368-9835

or FriendshipSangha@gmail.com.

Website FriendshipSangha.org

Sponsored by the Friendship Sangha of the Heart, a UUCV Adult Program

UU Thursday Book Group

Thursday • 10-11:15AM • GREEN ROOM

We read non-fiction and meet weekly. Books with wide-ranging topics are recommended by members and are chosen by consensus. Discussions are wide-ranging and lively. Both congregation members and non-members are warmly welcomed. Contact: Marcy Burns, mburns4430@roadrunner.com.



Fun Book Club • January 20

Sunday • 11:45AM • Conference Room

This fiction book group meets for 60-90 minutes after services. All are welcome. We read in January: *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles. (early reviews are stick to it and go past the first 100+ pages. Think about privilege too) February: *A Place for Us* by Fatima Mirza. March: *The Pearl* by Steinbeck (we thought we'd read at least one classic each year). Contact: Kappy Paulson 805/647-1600 kmp160@sbcglobal.net.

Men's Breakfast Bunch

Saturday • January 5 • 9AM

Marie Callenders in Ventura

Join us for food and conversation. We are better together. All men welcome. Contact: Ray Escobedo, 805/658-8543 ray.escobedo@sbcglobal.net.

Drop In Men's Discussion Group

Tuesday • 9:30AM • Conference Room.

We discuss political and social issues and current events. All men welcome. Contact: Bill Peltola 805/320-6175 or 805/486-1348.

Open Men's Support Group

1st & 3rd Thursdays • 7-9PM • Garage

Enjoy fellowship, camaraderie and personal sharing. Contact: Dale Condra, 805/212-0242, dale15roie@gmail.com



UU Hikers

Jan 5 (1st Saturday)

8AM

January's hike is from the Pratt trailhead near the end of Signal Street in Ojai. It is a 6.5 mile loop with an elevation gain of about 900'. It is a challenging hike. We will take plenty of breaks. Enjoy panoramic views of Ojai and Sulfur Mountain and intimate peeks into secluded hillside back yards. Be sure to be on Mike's email list to receive more information one week before the hike. Contact Mike Sixbey 805/205 4032

Women's Voices:

Discussion and Support Group

1st & 3rd Tues • 11-1PM • Green Room

A drop-in women's group explores women's roles and issues. Open to all women. Contacts: Suzanne Olsen, 805/701-1024, suzth2@charter.net.

T'ai Chi Chih® class

Monday • 5:30 - 6:30PM • Sanctuary

Gentle, moving meditation practice promoting balance, physical fitness, and inner calm. **Beginners welcome.** The 1st & 5th Monday are silent, group practice (no instruction).

Donation: \$10 per class (check to UUCV) First class is FREE! Info at Adult Programs table. Contact: Lisa Otero 805/766-1342

The Watercolor Group

Wednesday • Noon-2:30PM • BERG HALL



Everyone is welcome. No experience necessary. We offer informal instruction, encouragement, and interesting conversation.

Contact Veronica Bear veronicabear2000@yahoo.com.

UUiques Potluck and Tour

Our first potluck for 2019 at Berg Hall, January 24 at 6:30PM. Rev. Dana and Pastoral Associates will come to talk to us about how the church supports and cares for our beloved elders, especially those who live alone.

A tour is planned for January 17. Detailed information will be available soon. For information Merle or Pat 805/642-6316 or 3723emlo@gmail.com

Strong Bones 1 (Beginning)

Monday • 1:30PM • Sanctuary

Wednesday • 1:30PM • Sanctuary

Strong Bones 2 (Intermediate)

Monday • 2:30PM • Sanctuary

Wednesday • 2:30PM • Sanctuary

Open to all and work at your own pace. \$4/class, bring light weights, and stretch bands if you have them. Contact: Suzi Axtell, instructor, suzi@axtell.com



UU Things To Do • Adult Programs

Open Mic Night

Saturday • January 19 • 6PM • BERG HALL

Most of you know we have a wealth of musical talent in our church family. But did you know we also have standup comics, poets and storytellers? Some of these talented people participate in our Sunday services and make a beautiful contribution to worship. At Open Mic they can let loose with performances that can be funny, serious, personal, or political—in other words—wide open! Come, be entertained while providing a supportive audience to our performers. Pizza, snacks, and drinks will be available. Join us and see another side to your church friends. And if you have the desire, but have lacked the confidence to perform, there is no more supportive audience with which to give it a try. For more info email Kent Brinkmeyer kentbrinkmeyer@gmail.com

2019 PSW District Assembly

Save April 26-28, 2019, for the next Pacific Southwest District Assembly at the UU Church of Long Beach, California!

Next year's DA Theme is, "*From the Ground Up: The Power of Our PSWD Communities.*"

The congregation is the foundation of our Unitarian Universalist faith. Everything we do as an expression of our faith is grounded in the local communities. Some of our greatest joys sprout from the spiritual communities and the congregations of the Pacific Southwest District - both big and small.



WhaleCoast Alaska 2019

Four Unitarian Universalist Fellowships in Alaska invite you to our awe-inspiring, 26th annual Alaska tour program

TOUR #1: National Park Tour, June 8-18, 2019 -- \$3,258

TOUR #2: All-Alaska Tour, July 5-17, 2019 -- \$3,887

WHERE: From the coastal waters to the sunny Interior, from wilderness to modern cities. We experience the best of Alaska: Fairbanks, Denali Park, Anchorage, Juneau, Sitka, Seward

SEE:

- Wildlife: whales, seals, bears, moose, caribou, & more.
- Glaciers, islands, fjords, and mountain ranges.
- Native American artists and dancers.
- Alaska's finest museums.
- Spectacular travel by train, plane, and boat.

STAY: Real Alaska! UU homestays, meals, & dinner parties with Alaska UUs who treat you like friends.



Director: Dave Frey, longtime Fairbanks UU
More information: www.WhaleCoastAK.org
Email: dfrey@WhaleCoastAK.org
Telephone: 907/322-4966
Save - \$100/person discount for group of 8
Hurry! Each tour sells out when 40 guests register



January 4 • What Women Want, (Wo Zhi Nu Ren Zin), 2011, Not Rated. Mandarin with English subtitles. A Chinese man, who's both a successful advertising executive and an unrepentant womanizer, is shocked when the promotion he's expecting for himself goes to a woman hired from a rival firm. In a comic twist of fate, he suddenly acquires the ability to hear what women are thinking. This is a remake of a less sophisticated 2000 American film starring Helen Hunt and Mel Gibson. Director Daming Chen.

January 11 • The Butler, 2013, PG-13. Forrest Whittaker stars in this true story about unusual personal life of a White House butler who served for 3 decades during the terms of 8 U.S. presidents, spanning the Civil Rights movement. The extraordinary cast includes Oprah Winfrey, John Cusack, Jane Fonda, Cuba Gooding, Jr., Vanessa Redgrave, Alan Rickman and Robin Williams. Director Lee Daniels.

January 18 • The Company Men, 2010, R for language and brief nudity. This inspirational indie drama stars Ben Affleck as a successful businessman who loses his lucrative corporate job and his 2% privileged living standard during America's 2008 downsizing epidemic, and has to take a construction gig working for his brother-in-law. Co-starring Kevin Costner, Tommy Lee Jones, Chris Cooper and Maria Bello. Director John Wells.

January 25 • The Grand Seduction, 2013, Not Rated. The small, financially-challenged town of Tickle Cove must persuade a doctor to move there, according to terms set by a plastics manufacturer that proposes to build a new factory in the area, bringing much-needed jobs. But selling the advantages of a tiny, remote, down-at-heel Newfoundland village to a young professional isn't easy. Director Don McKellar.

Contact: Julie Moore: werfamilyvideos@aol.com

**"Like" the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura on Facebook.
It's one more way to stay connected.**

Committee News



Buildings and Grounds

by Linda Pietrzak

It is so gratifying to pull in the parking lot and have the majority of the big project for the day almost done. Wil Devine brought his new truck and a rented U-Haul trailer to haul off the build-up of trash in the trash enclosure. There were about 40 bags of pine needles, the old gates that had been replaced, and some other pieces of lumber from different areas. The hard workers were Wil, John Puccetti, Mike Sixbey, Geoff Dann, Phil Wiseman, and Bill Peltola. They loaded and hauled off 2,200 pounds of trash!!

Sherry Anderson watered the Olive Tree Garden, pulled weeds and planted some succulents near the entry to the parking lot. Joyce Sattler Picked up trash around the building, swept the garage, and worked on organizing the B & G Closet. Mike S. and Phil still had time to repair the exit doors in both East and West Alcoves. Mike also repaired one of the downspouts that had sprung a leak during the last downpour. Bill checked the fluorescent and emergency lights in the Sanctuary and emptied the trash cans out back. Geoff, Wil, and Bill took one of the toilet seats off so they could get new bolts for all the toilet seats. Linda Pietrzak helped with the last of the trash enclosure cleanup and cut up some cardboard boxes so they could all fit in the recycle toters.

The BIG project for the year was completed in December, just in time for Christmas. If you didn't notice, the big improvement was repairing and painting the outside of the building.

At the Volunteer Days, I seem to be going from place to place checking to see if there is anything I can help with. I also get to notice all the little changes that someone makes, this month there were little dams to catch some water for a couple of geraniums. It's a small thing but it just shows that more people care about this building than we are even aware of. Come out and see for yourself on the 20th.

January 2019 Finance News

by David Smith, Finance Committee Chair

How important is UUCV to me?

First, I need to consider is this something I want to think about now, or put it into my brain's trash bin, or on my "to do someday" list. If I take up this question today, then I could use a three-point scale to see how important church involvement is to me.

For a "1," it might mean I occasionally come here and participate and enjoy it, but UUCV is not yet crucial to my lifestyle and well-being.

A "2" might be, I am just learning there are a lot of things that go on here that I haven't tried yet, and I am impressed with the people and their sense of community.

A "3" might be like Rev. Carolyn's comment of their realization that she and Orville didn't know how much UUCV meant to them until they had to start driving an hour to get to church from their new home. Stated differently, a "3" is, I am really attached to this place, it's activities and its people and hope I never have to leave. --*To be continued in February.*

For comments, criticism or a conversation, call David Smith at 805/216-9331 or write davidpaseo001@gmail.com.



Green Room Gallery News

The current exhibit in the Green Room Gallery features original art by Cassandra Tondro, Celia Ortenberg, Ginger Plum, Joyce Lombard, Kate Higgins, Lauren Copus, Neal Ortenberg, Phoebe Higgins, Ted Lombard, and Veronica Bear. The exhibit has paintings in acrylic, oil, and watercolor; and works of monotype/collage and photography. Many of the artworks are for sale, with 30% going to the church as a donation.

If you would like to display your art in the next exhibit please read the instructions and fill out the application, either on paper or online at <http://www.uuventura.org/about-us/location/uucv-green-room-art-gallery/>. Application deadline to display your art in the next exhibit is Friday, February 1. You will receive confirmation of your application and instructions on when to bring your art to the gallery.

If you have any questions or would like more information contact Veronica Bear at veronicabear2000@yahoo.com.

January 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 OFFICE CLOSED 9:30AM - MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP 11AM - WOMEN'S VOICES 2PM - MANY PATHS 6PM - COVENANT GROUP 6:30PM - MEN'S GROUP II 6:45 PM-WOMEN'S GROUP III	2 11AM - WOMEN'S GROUP IV 12PM - WATERCOLOR GROUP 1:30PM - STRONG BONES 1 2:30PM - STRONG BONES 2 7PM - MEN'S GROUP 7PM - CHOIR REHEARSAL	3 10AM - BOOK CLUB 5PM - WORSHIP ASSOCIATES MEETIN 5:30PM - LUYV PIZZA PARTY	4 10AM - UU BRIDGE	5 9AM - MEN'S BREAKFAST BUNCH
6 9AM - MEDITATION 10AM - WORSHIP SERVICE 3PM - CITIZENS FOR PEACEFUL RES	7 1PM - WOMEN'S GROUP 1:30PM - STRONG BONES 1 2PM - COVENANT GROUP 2:30PM - STRONG BONES 2 5:30PM - TAI CHI CHIH® 7PM - MEDITATION	8 9:30AM - MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP 11AM - STAFF MEETING 1PM - CONNECTING COMM. MEETING 1:45PM - VOLUNTEER COOR. MEETING 4PM - WOMEN'S GROUP VII 4:30PM - CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP 6:30PM - FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING 7PM - MEN'S GROUP IV	9 12PM - WATERCOLOR GROUP 1:30PM - STRONG BONES 1 2PM - WOMEN'S GROUP VIII 2:30PM - STRONG BONES 2 6PM - LEADERSHIP COMM. MTG 7PM - CHOIR REHEARSAL	10 10AM - BOOK CLUB 11AM - WOMEN'S GROUP VI 2:30PM - HANDICRAFT GROUP 6PM - LUYV 6:30PM - 7PEAT & CLIMATE HUB 6:30PM - B&G MEETING	11 10AM - UU BRIDGE 3PM - SCRAPBOOKING	12 8AM - DAY OF MINDFULNESS 5PM - UU PARENTING GROUP
13 9AM - MEDITATION 10AM - WORSHIP SERVICE 11:30AM - RE TEACHER MEETING 12PM - OWL PARENT ORIENTATION	14 11:30AM - WOMEN'S GROUP V 1PM - COVENANT GROUP 1:30PM - STRONG BONES 1 2:30PM - STRONG BONES 2 5:30PM - TAI CHI CHIH® 6PM - IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS ACTION 6:30PM - INTRO TO MEDITATION 7PM - MEDITATION	15 9:30AM - MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP 11AM - WOMEN'S VOICES 11AM - STAFF MEETING 1:30PM - PUBLICITY MEETING 2PM - MANY PATHS 6PM - COVENANT GROUP 6:30PM - MEN'S GROUP V 6:30PM - MEN'S GROUP II 6:45PM - WOMEN'S GRP III	16 11AM - WOMEN'S GROUP IV 12PM - WATERCOLOR GROUP 1:30PM - STRONG BONES 1 2:30PM - STRONG BONES 2 4PM - VHP MEETING 7PM - MEN'S GROUP 7PM - CHOIR REHEARSAL	17 10AM - BOOK CLUB 6PM - BOARD OF TRUSTEES 6PM - LEADERSHIP DEV. MEETING	18 10AM - UU BRIDGE 7:30PM - YOUNG ADULT DISCUSSION AND DINNER	19 9AM - ALL CHURCH B&G WORK PARTY 6PM - OPEN MIC NIGHT
20 9AM - MEDITATION 10AM - WORSHIP SERVICE 11:30AM - FUN BOOK CLUB	21 OFFICE CLOSED MLK jr. Day 1PM - WOMEN'S GROUP 1:30PM - STRONG BONES 1 2PM - COVENANT GROUP 2:30PM - STRONG BONES 2 5:30PM - TAI CHI CHIH® 7PM - MEDITATION	22 9:30AM - MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP 11AM - STAFF MEETING 4PM - WOMEN'S GROUP VII 6PM - COV. GRP. FACILITATOR MTG 7PM - MEN'S GROUP	23 11AM - NEWSLETTER FOLDING 12PM - WATERCOLOR GROUP 1:30PM - STRONG BONES 1 2PM - WOMEN'S GRP VIII 2:30PM - STRONG BONES 2 7PM - CHOIR REHEARSAL	24 10AM - BOOK CLUB 11AM - WOMEN'S GROUP VI 2:30PM - HANDICRAFT GROUP 6PM - AIDS QUILTING	25 10AM - UU BRIDGE	26 2PM - RE WORK PARTY
27 9AM - MEDITATION 10AM - WORSHIP SERVICE 11:30AM - CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATION 11:30AM - SAFETY TEAM MEETING 5PM - MOM'S GROUP	28 11:30AM - WOMEN'S GROUP V 1PM - COVENANT GROUP 1:30PM - STRONG BONES 1 2:30PM - STRONG BONES 2 5:30PM - TAI CHI CHIH® 6PM - SOCIAL ACTION MEETING 7PM - MEDITATION	29 9:30AM - MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP 11AM - STAFF MEETING	30 12PM - WATERCOLOR GROUP 1:30PM - STRONG BONES 1 2:30PM - STRONG BONES 2 7PM - CHOIR REHEARSAL	31 10AM - BOOK CLUB		

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Unitarian Universalist Principles

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote

- **The inherent worth and dignity of every person;**
- **Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;**
- **Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;**
- **A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;**
- **The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;**
- **The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;**
- **Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.**