

Unitarian Universalist Church of Davis (UUCD)  
Theme Journal –December, Repair



This month's theme is repair and it fits well with preparation for my sabbatical: January – June 2015. The good news is that I don't feel broken and in need of mending. I love my work and how it is unfolding at UUCD. However, I am ready to devote time to studying with a depth that is not possible within the day-to-day life of ministry. I'm also looking forward to rest, travel, and reconnecting with family and friends. It will be wonderful to return to being with you in June.

You'll experience your own journey of growth.

Sunday guest speakers will share their very best sermons.

With the guidance of Liz Hall and Anna Eng of Bay Area Organizers, The Dream Team will continue to explore who we are, and who we wish to become.

Rev. Cody will work with members of our congregation to develop a new pastoral care program. I anticipate it will represent the caring and creativity found in our church. Consider using this time to get to know him and to experience his ministry.

In June there will be two Sundays reserved for us to reveal what we have discovered during the sabbatical months.

While on my journey, I am trusting the expertise of our very able staff, Rev. Cody Sanders, Assistant Minister for Pastoral Care, Mandy Dawn Kuntz, Congregational Administrator, Jennifer Johnson, Accounting Manager, Kate Raymond, Lifespan Learning Director, Laura Sandage, Choir Director, Nancy Lower, Accompanist and Liturgist, and Barbara Meixner, Handbell Director. You can trust that I will use my time well, and return filled with new energy and ideas to explore.

– Rev. Beth Banks

❖ [www.uudavis.org](http://www.uudavis.org) → Events/Publications → 2014-15 December, Repair ❖

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## Hymn of the Month, "What Wondrous Love"

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**Sunday, December 7, 9:30 & 11:15am**, *Kindness*, Rev. Beth Banks; Suzanne Kimmel, Worship Associate.

FIRST SUNDAY: Recognition Of Religious Exploration Teachers

We'll focus on the poem, "Kindness" by Naomi Shahib Nye which begins, "Before you know what kindness is, you must lose things . . ." When the life we've so carefully stitched together comes undone, we want it repaired, but something different awaits. The slow spiritual discipline of recreating a life becomes a gift.

This is the Advent season when Christians light a pathway for hope.

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**Sunday, December 14, 9:30 & 11:15am**, "*Repair When the World Comes Undone*," Rev. Cody Sanders; Lee Ann D'Amato, Worship Associate.

The Hebrew phrase, Tikkun olam, or "repairing the world," developed as a teaching in the early rabbinic period to lead practitioners of Judaism beyond their own individual moral and spiritual responsibility toward an ethic of care for the wellbeing of society as a whole. During the Advent season, Christian communities rekindle a spirit of expectation over the coming of a messiah who would, in the words of the prophet Isaiah, "bring forth justice to the nations." This service will rekindle our own imaginations and inspired activity toward "repairing a world" that seems constantly at risk of coming undone.

Music: "Brassy!" a brass quintet of local music educators and professional brass players. Formed in 2013, Brassy! is proud to continue a long tradition of brass ensembles, performing music of every type, including popular tunes, dance music, traditional pieces, and liturgical works.

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**Saturday, December 20, 7pm, Longest Night**, Rev. Beth Banks, Rev. Cody Sanders, Suzanne Kimmel, Donna Sachs

Darkness invites us to reflection and turning inward. During this season of gift-giving and caroling, our evening offers time to remember what has been lost, and to honor yearnings yet unfulfilled. The Threshold Singers will blend their music with readings, songs, and candle light. We end our hour together with hope and light.

A light reception follows.

*Please note this is \*not\* the Solstice service, which serves a different purpose.*

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**Sunday, December 21, 11:15am ONLY**, *The Wholly (Holy) Wonder-fully Human Family*, Rev. Beth Banks; Simon Murphey, Worship Associate

We honor many families who are holy – grandparents, same sex couples, single people who find a family of friends, single parents, widows/widowers, families who have joyfully adopted children, or who foster children. There is not one Holy Family, but many forms of a sacred family. Music: Juuliebells

**Special Collection** – Interfaith Rotating Winter Shelter (IRWS). Checks to UUCD, memo IRWS.  
<http://www.interfaith-shelter.org/> Your donation helps UUCD host the Interfaith Rotating Winter Shelter Jan. 25 - Feb. 1. *Read more on page 5.*

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## **Sunday, December 21, 7-8:30pm, Honoring the Solstice**, Autumn Labbe-Renault

In earth-based traditions, Winter Solstice marks the turning of the Wheel to winter, a time for deep reflection and inner work. This is often at odds with the way our culture celebrates the busy Festive Season. This intergenerational gathering provides an opportunity to pause, focus on the non-material gifts of the season, and honor the Earth. Singing, stories, candle lighting, and time for quiet meditation are all part of this gathering in the Sanctuary. Bring a sweet to share afterwards; hot cider & cocoa provided! *This is \*not\* the Longest Night service, which serves a different purpose.*



## **Wednesday, December 24, Christmas Eve** Dec. 24 Offerings: Interfaith Winter Rotating Shelter (IRWS)

**5pm Festival of Lights Family Christmas Eve Service.** Share the joy of our season's traditions - carols, Family Choir, candlelight ritual, the children's No-Rehearsal Nativity Pageant, and more. Would your family like to be a part of the service? We'll have some small piece of costuming for angels, sheep, and shepherds to hand out as you enter the Sanctuary. If you have a costume at home for a (human) animal who would like to join the Nativity, feel free to bring it. If your family would enjoy ushering or helping to greet arrivals, let Kate know, re@uudavis.org

**6pm Cookie Reception.** The Brigadoon Band plays holiday tunes while we all share goodies and fellowship in the Social Hall. Every family is invited to bring cookies and/or non-sugar finger foods to share. Questions or interested in helping it all happen? Contact Francisco Michel

**8pm John Rutter Christmas Eve Candle Light Service,** Rev. Beth Banks, Senior Minister; Rev. Cody Sanders, Pastoral Minister; Laura Sandage, Choir Director; Nancy Lower, Accompanist and Music Liturgist.

You are invited to a special evening of candle light and carols. The Christmas story will be woven together with the spellbinding choral music of English composer, John Rutter. On this night we remember once again the importance of preserving what is precious. You will experience enough candlelight in the darkness to light your way to Spring.

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## **Sunday, December 28, 11:15am ONLY** *Just Rest: A Cushion for Your Head; Sarah Caine, Campus Minister.*

This sermon is inspired by the writings of the 13th and 14th century Islamic mystics, Hafiz and Mevlana Rumi. Sarah will reflect on her December trip to Turkey with a class from Starr King School for the Ministry, and how difficult it can be to simply rest. Rest and repair come in many forms and from many teachers, some within and some without. As we turn to the new year, what needs rest and repair for you?

**A Sabbatical Departure Ritual** for Rev. Beth Banks and our congregation will be lead by Rev. Cody Sanders.

**Party!** Following the service we'll have a send-off for Beth with hearty snacks, beverages, and good cheer.

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## **Sunday, January 4, 9:30 & 11:15am, John Ashby.**

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**Reflect**     **"What happened in Ferguson** is symptomatic of larger stresses that all of our communities face.

"The shooting death of Michael Brown, an unarmed African American teenager, has reverberated far beyond that small community because it raises issues of justice and respect for the inherent dignity of every human being.

"We take comfort in knowing that people of any race who are prepared to recognize the common woe of all injustice, the fragility of all life, and the need to reach out loving hands to all who suffer, can eventually change the world.

"As we react to the decision of the grand jury not to indict officer Darren Wilson, may we remember these eternal truths and stand in solidarity with the people in Ferguson and across this country who seek to dissolve the boundaries that divide our hearts."     – Bill Schulz, President and CEO, Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

**The Committee on Ministry** (Lucas Frerichs, Sarah Keith, Stefan Harvey, Steve Reynolds, Karen Urbano) invites you to make the theme part of your spiritual practice: "Love is the active, creative force that repairs life's injuries and brings new possibilities into being..." – Rebecca Parker. *Has someone repaired you by sharing love; have you showered a family member, friend, or a person you did not know with love in a gesture of repair?*

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**Share**     **Collective Wisdom Circles: A New Development in Congregational Care at UUCD**

In order to draw upon the experience and knowledge of congregants at UUCD, each Circle will be comprised of a cadre of persons who possess first-person, experiential knowledge of a particular subject that they are willing to share with others when a request arises for such knowledge. For example, a congregant has a parent newly diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease and requests help in locating appropriate resources in the community for her parent and for her own self-care as a caregiver. A staff minister will place this congregant in touch with two or three people from the Alzheimer's and Dementia Collective Wisdom Circle who are willing to provide short-term conversation via phone, e-mail, or in person about the community resources these individuals found helpful when dealing with a similar situation with one of their own family members. The Circles we would like to begin forming now are:

Alzheimer's and Dementia Circle: persons knowledgeable about helping loved ones with a diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease or Dementia access community resources.

Children with Disabilities or Special Needs Circle: persons knowledgeable about helping one's own children or grandchildren access school or community resources tailored to their special needs.

Long-Term Care Circle: persons knowledgeable about navigating access to assisted living, nursing home care, in-home care, or specialized community services for their own elderly loved ones or others in need of long-term care.

Hospice Care Circle: persons knowledgeable about companioning a loved one through hospice care.

If you have experience with any of the above that you'd be willing to share with others (as the need arises) and you'd be willing to have your name "on file" with Rev. Cody Sanders, please contact him at [rev.sanders@uudavis.org](mailto:rev.sanders@uudavis.org). You will only be called upon when another congregant is in need of the knowledge you possess. All we ask from you is that, when asked, you be willing to share this knowledge and practical experience a short conversation or e-mail exchange.

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**Read**     ***The Force of Kindness: Change Your Life with Love and Compassion*** by Sharon Salzberg, a Buddhist meditation teacher. She helps us understand through stories, lessons, and meditation. She reveals how kindness is not a sugary sweet sentiment, but a powerful tool for repairing what is broken.

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**Listen**     Download or listen online to edited Sunday services at [www.uudavispodcast.org](http://www.uudavispodcast.org)

Ice crystals, Public domain image: <http://pixabay.com/en/winter-frost-window-patterns-snow-315010/>



**Act Faithful Friends~Amigos Fieles** is a Community Visitation Program that helps end the isolation of men and women in United States immigration detention by providing them with a volunteer visitor. The connections that are made across life experience, class, and culture offer a one-on-one remedy that can reassure the immigrants we visit that humanity exists. Our hearts are broken open by the connection and the gratitude that comes our way during these visits. Just by continually showing up, visitor volunteers are in a unique position to help protect against human rights abuses in detention and ensure that each person is treated with dignity.

Recently our visits have been with immigrants from Mexico, India, Honduras, Cameroon, El Salvador, and Jamaica; each has a story that is complex, heart breaking and often full of hope.

As people of faith we seek to know the other, to welcome the stranger, to practice the golden rule of loving our neighbor, and to respect the inherent worth and dignity of all people. I have learned a lot by stepping outside my comfort zone and being willing to go into a jail setting to listen and share with a person whose life experience is different from my own.

We hope you'll join us and open your heart to this transformative experience and opportunity to practice the core values of our faith. Several members or friends from UUCD have made visits with Faithful Friends~Amigos Fieles.

Car pooling with others and personal support are a part of the experience. We look forward to hearing from you!

[www.endisolation.org](http://www.endisolation.org), [faithfulfriendsac@gmail.com](mailto:faithfulfriendsac@gmail.com) or, Mary Helen Doherty 916-708-3390.



Photo: <http://www.davisenterprise.com/forum/opinion-columns/at-the-shelter-you-can-find-a-home/>

**Interfaith Winter Rotating Shelter (IRWS) Jan. 25 – Feb. 1, 2015**

<http://www.interfaith-shelter.org>

Starting in December we'll sign up volunteers for this winter's shelter.

Last year we were able to host 40 guests, our limit, because we had 4 overnigher volunteers every night of the week! Only once did capacity exceed our limit. This venture has really blossomed. The joy and skill you brought to the cooking made the guests sit up and notice, "You guys have fun!"

This is truly an intergenerational happening. Young and old sort sleeping bags, drive, serve, provide hospitality; a father and son do an overnight shift; Campus Ministry and the UNIQUE High School group take on a meal.

I am grateful for this congregation fulfilling a deeply held vision of mine: of a whole congregation coming together in service, learning more about each other and about the guests in the process, and giving us all the chance to feel we can count on each other, even when we go out on a limb. We become a part of something bigger than ourselves, connected to our Davis faith community.

So come join us if you haven't had a chance, and welcome back trusty shelter hosts, whom I am proud to know better!

Contact me (Pat Moore Pickett) if you have questions about jobs. Signups begin in December. Intake volunteer training starts November 29. You can sign up online for openings –especially driving and overnight - at other places of worship around town if you want to get your feet wet before our week comes around.