



**What does it mean to be a prophet?** The lives of the prophets from the ancient Abrahamic faiths (Judaism, Christianity and Islam) offer wisdom through their words and lives. We can also study Margaret Sanger, Martin Luther King Jr, Gandhi, Malcom X, Harvey Milk, or Grace Lee Boggs\* and Kathleen Dean Moore^, whose lives are closer to our time. Once we start listing the possibilities, there are many who have challenged the direction of this country, or even the world, toward caring for the whole of society.

You'll find reference to some of the people whose lives shape society in this month's Journal. Look in the sections referencing books, videos, podcasts, and movies. Some selections will entertain you; others will challenge you. They're intended to spark deeper thought when you view them alone, or even better, discussion when viewed with friends.

Who would you identify as a prophet in this time? Prophets have almost never fared well in their lifetime because they push against the accepted norm. Can you identify some who have stated their truth and were loved by the society they critiqued? In my recent reading I have discovered young rap poets in Arab culture who have been suggested as possible prophets. Movie producers have been elevated to this level by some and, thanks to today's technology, musicians have the ear of generations of people. What about scientists? Might they be prophets?

This is a month of exploring prophesy, which assumes we'll experience some discomfort. Consider attending the Celebration of Abraham event, designed to strengthen the skill of listening and being in conversation with those whose religious tradition is different from yours. Participate in the Martin Luther King Day events and learn about the man who was a social agitator, who pushed the edges, and was far from being universally beloved. Attend the Adult Religious Exploration Diving Deep session and hear the sermon that challenges us to get real about being a church community.

Where will we find the prophetic voice to lead?

– Rev. Beth Banks, Senior Minister

*\*Grace Lee Boggs was an author and social justice activist with a focus on feminism and on struggles in the African-American community.*

*^ Kathleen Dean Moore is an environmental activist who writes about the cultural and spiritual values of the natural world and moral issues of climate change.*



**We are entering 2017** on the tails of an emotionally difficult year. We do not need a calendar date to begin anew, but it is a useful reminder that we can always restart, refresh, and remind ourselves of our hopes and dreams. This month in church we explore the theme of prophecy. In the Jewish tradition the Written Torah includes the *Nevi'im*, or Prophets. These texts are filled with divine revelations, often through a pious messenger. The revelations recall past events, see into the future, and offer an interpretation for life in the here and now. Prophecy works in past, present, and future, and I believe we can all be prophets. What do you know of your past that can inform your future? What dream do you have of the future that will change your decisions in the present?

Prophecies need an audience. How will you share your truth with this congregation? This month we are launching three Small Group Ministries. This is building on the Together in Exploration (TIE) groups that have met in this congregation. Each Small Group Ministry will be led by a facilitator and may have up to 12 people who agree to get together every-other week for 12 weeks. Each meeting will be guided by a short reading and focus questions that invite personal exploration and deeper sharing. Please look for sign-ups at the Adult Religious Exploration table in the Social Hall on January 8, 15, and 22, or email [re@uudavis.org](mailto:re@uudavis.org) to learn about availability. We hope to have a cycle of these groups meeting throughout the year so that we might all get to know each other better and, most importantly, find a place to be known.

Blessings, Rev. Morgan McLean, Assistant Minister for Congregational Life

# Sunday Worship

**January 1, 11:15am ONLY**, *Letting Go and Stepping In*, Elizabeth Assenza; Saying goodbye to 2016 means saying goodbye to a year that challenged us in many ways, some welcome and some unwelcome. As we move forward into 2017, what will you step into? What hopes, dreams, commitments are you igniting for the new year? Note: this is a short service followed by an “UnDeck the Halls” activity. [Spirited Collection: World Wildlife Fund](#). Make checks out to UUCD, memo: WWF.



Children are invited to attend Religious Exploration in the Bridgehouse in their pajamas.

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**January 8, 9:30 & 11:15am**, *One Word Futures*; Rev. Morgan McLean; Is there a difference between a resolution and a prophecy? As we begin a new year and explore the theme of prophecy, we will discover how we might find just one word in our resolution to change our futures.

Children and youth will join the worship for the beginning of the service on this “first” Sunday celebration, and then continue to their programs for learning about their chosen Social Service Sunday recipient – the World Wildlife Fund.

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**January 15, 9:30 & 11:15am**, *Martin Luther King, Jr. Day*, Elizabeth Assenza. The words and works of Rev. Dr. King have served as a guide for decades. This year, what can we find in his life to fuel our work for justice; what can we find in his words that can help us continue his work of building beloved community?

[Special Collection – Cool Davis](#) promotes energy and water conservation and sustainable lifestyle practices in Davis and the region. [www.cooldavis.org](http://www.cooldavis.org) Make checks out to UUCD, memo Cool.

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**January 22, 9:30 & 11:15am**, *Looking for Our Prophet*; Rev. Beth Banks; Tamara Range, Worship Associate. Prophets usually arise from the edges of society, challenging those invested in the dominant culture. Some say the outside perspective provides a clearer view of the whole system with its strengths and weaknesses. Others say viewing society from the edge offers an unbalanced and reactionary perspective. Where will the prophet for our time come from? Music: Vocal Art Ensemble.

**January 29, 9:30 & 11:15am**, *Relentless Resistance & Revolutionary Resilience*; Rev. Ashley Horan, Guest; Rev. Beth Banks, Worship Leader; Stacie Frerichs, Worship Associate. In this political-spiritual moment, as we are keenly aware of the chasm between the world for which we yearn and the world which we inhabit, what does our faith call Unitarian Universalists to do? Drawing from lessons from the Movement for Black Lives, the Water Protectors at Standing Rock, and other interfaith, multi-racial struggles for justice, we will reflect on who and how we are called to show up faithfully, again and again, in service of our beautiful and broken world. 12:15pm Q&A with Ashley.  
*Quilt blessing for youth resident from Progress Ranch.*

*Rev. Ashley Horan is the Executive Director of MUUSJA, the Minnesota UU Social Justice Alliance, and the national Learning Coordinator for Beloved Conversations: Meditations on Race and Ethnicity for the Fahs Collaborative. Ashley was the 2010-2011 Intern & Campus Minister here at UUCD, and is thrilled to be back with this beloved community that loved her ministry into being. She lives in Minneapolis with her partner, Rev. Karen Hutt, and their two children, Zi (16) and Aspen (2).*

Public domain image: <https://pixabay.com/en/watches-old-antique-time-indicating-1204696/>

**Reflect**     **The Committee on Ministry** (Stefan Harvey, Hiram Jackson, Lisa Oakes, Kirk Ridgeway, Susan Steinbach) invites you to make the theme part of your spiritual practice:

“The prophetic liberal church is the church in which all members share the common responsibility to attempt to foresee the consequences of human behavior (both individual and institutional), with the intention of making history in place of merely being pushed around by it.” —James Luther Adams, UU.

What does it mean for you to be in a prophetic liberal church?

What is life asking of you in the prophetic creation of your future, our future?



**Watch**     **The Most Prophetic Three Minutes In Television History:** Scene from *The Newsroom*. You may not agree with everything in this clip, but it’s a conversation starter. (Contains profanity)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ML3qYHWRIZk>

Charlie Chaplin's final speech in the film, **The Great Dictator**: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WibmcsEGLKo>

**Milk** – Harvey Milk and his struggles as an American gay activist who fought for gay rights and became California's first openly gay elected official. [http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1013753/?ref\\_=fn\\_al\\_tt\\_1](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1013753/?ref_=fn_al_tt_1)

**The Prophetic Imagination** by Walter Brueggemann. The people we later recognize as prophets are also poets. They reframe what is at stake in chaotic times. [www.onbeing.org/program/prophetic-imagination-walter-brueggemann/475](http://www.onbeing.org/program/prophetic-imagination-walter-brueggemann/475)

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**Attend**     14th Annual **Celebration of Abraham** Interfaith Gathering, Jan. 29, 2:30-5pm, St. James 1275 B St. Judaism, Christianity and Islam trace their history to Abraham. Unitarian Universalism has Christian and Jewish heritage and an important place within the Abrahamic tradition. This year’s emphasis is direct communication (listening and speaking) among members of Abrahamic traditions. We’ll receive guidance for deep discussions in small groups by people with diverse religious perspectives. How has this last year effected the importance of our faith? How can we come together in natural and ongoing ways across faith traditions?

This isn’t a time for showcasing our projects, but rather reflection on our ideals and how we might reach them. Come prepared to share your faith journey. What does Unitarian Universalism, or our congregation, do support the dignity of others? Read the bulletin and Social Justice Quarterly. Consider your experience within our congregation.

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**Read**     **The Autobiography of Malcolm X** By Malcolm X and Alex Haley  
[http://al-rasid.com/shared\\_uploads/The.Autobiography.of.MalcolmX.pdf](http://al-rasid.com/shared_uploads/The.Autobiography.of.MalcolmX.pdf)

**Martin Luther King Was a Radical, Not a Saint**  
[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/peter-dreier/martin-luther-king-was-a-\\_l\\_b\\_6498740.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/peter-dreier/martin-luther-king-was-a-_l_b_6498740.html)

**Prophet Muhammad: The Social Reformer** Few individuals in any civilization have been able to accomplish religious, gender, educational, racial and conflict-resolution reforms all at once. Prophet Muhammad, the founder of Islam, reformed his society in all five respects which laid the foundation of the Arab and Muslim civilization.  
[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/amaar-ahmad/prophet-muhammad-the-social-reformer\\_b\\_3187443.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/amaar-ahmad/prophet-muhammad-the-social-reformer_b_3187443.html)

**The Radical King** by Martin Luther King Jr     <http://www.beacon.org/The-Radical-King-PI049.aspx>

**Reclaiming Prophetic Witness: Liberal Religion in the Public Square** by Paul Rasor; 2014-15 UUA Common Read.  
<http://www.uuabookstore.org/Reclaiming-Prophetic-Witness-PI7834.aspx>

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**Listen** Sunday services: [www.uudavispodcast.org](http://www.uudavispodcast.org)



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