

Stewardship: Deepening our Connections, Cultivating our Community

We're ROUNding Out Our 2020-21 Annual Giving Drive

With a Generous Fun Event:

Pi Day (3.14) Pie Party!

Saturday, March 14, 5:30-8:30pm; Social Hall

Everyone is invited to join us in Deepening our Connections and Cultivating our Community with Pi(e)! This day, 3/14, is Pi Day, so we'll indulge with a Pi-themed potluck. The options are endless... pizza pie, shepherd's pie, quiche, fruit pie, pumpkin pie....

RSVP so we can plan & let us know, are you bringing a savory or sweet pie? office@uudavis.org



We are mid-Annual Giving Drive. Giving enables our church to fulfill its mission, "to welcome each and all, cultivating the Spirit, serving others, in our quest for justice." In addition to receiving your church pledge for the fiscal year (beginning on July 1), we are using the Drive to reconnect with each other. Last year 24 "visiting stewards" attempted to contact 64 members and friends. This year we hope to visit 86 more. Our goal is to visit the entire congregation over a 3-year period. Check your voicemail and email in case this is your lucky year.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Davis (UUCD)

Theme Journal – March – Wisdom

One thing I love about working in community is the wisdom that comes from a group. I have been inspired countless times watching one idea or comment grow, change and take shape. I see this at church, in my work with the UU Partner Church Council, and with two different groups of clergy colleagues I'm part of. Recently, I have been watching wisdom collect around the mission of FARM Davis. This church has volunteered many workdays at the FARM, planting and harvesting fresh food to give away. In the fall, the owners of FARM Davis relocated to the East Coast and we have felt a hole in the community. The house and land are for sale and several community members—especially people who have been involved in Davis Community Meals—have been sharing wisdom about ways to

continue the work. You are all invited to continue the sharing and the good work! Sunday, March 8, immediately after church, join Episcopal, Jewish, Presbyterian, Lutheran, and other community members for an Interfaith Workday. We'll gather after our services for a picnic lunch (fresh pizza from the pizza oven!), do some farm work, and encourage interfaith connections. What wisdom will come from our gathering? I hope you'll be part of it!

– Rev. Morgan McLean, Congregational Life Minister



❖ www.uudavis.org → Events/Publications → 2019-20, March – Wisdom ❖

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Definitions of wisdom, include these words: discernment, insight, just judgment, the ability to use knowledge from experience to make good decisions. In March, we'll explore the many ways we search for, and live with, wisdom.

March 29, Rev. Mary Katherine Morn, Executive Director of The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC), is our guest preacher. Rev. Morn brings her message, "Common Courage."

UUSC's work began in 1939 when Unitarians Rev. Waitstill and Martha Sharp took an extraordinary risk: helping refugees escape Nazi persecution in Europe. The courageous lives of the Sharps are told in Ken Burns' documentary, <https://www.pbs.org/kenburns/defying-the-nazis-the-sharps-war/about-film/> (watch on Netflix or <https://bit.ly/38uDck2>)

When there is a disaster in the world, I look to the UUCS website for guidance. I trust the wisdom of their process to discern who will best use our donations. UUSC selects grassroots organizations and movements that share our human rights goals. They consider how much of the money donated will directly reach the affected population and if it will inspire, equip, and sustain people into the future. It can take UUSC a little longer to post a recommendation—it's worth the wait. Learn more at <https://www.uusc.org/our-approach/> and <https://www.uusc.org/initiatives/crisis-response/> You'll find stories and research that help us become wiser in our social justice efforts as a denomination.

— Rev. Beth Banks, Senior Minister

Chalice Lighting: Longing for Wisdom by the Soul Matters Team

We light this chalice
not simply in the hope
that we will be led to wisdom
but for spark that arises
when wisdom is found.
We pray for the wisdom makes us new.
We long for the wisdom
that reveals the connections
between us.
We hunger for the wisdom
that heals our hearts.
May the light we now kindle together,
lead us back to those wiser ways.



My thoughts turn to the Wisdom Circle I've been privileged to work with this year in our congregation in my role as UUCD's Community Lay Minister. We are 13 elders who meet once a month to share our thoughts and personal stories around conscious aging topics. It's the "big rocks" topics: subjects we normally don't talk about with our friends or family—*what it's like for us to be aging; to face our own mortality; to let go of what no longer has a place in our life's purpose; to reflect on what our life's purpose will be now in this new phase of our lives; how we want to contribute to others; and more.*

At times, many times, we say things that are "wise." People share what scares them most about aging and how they are learning to not let those fears dictate how large or deep their lives will be. I am learning from our circle how to recognize more of the subtleties of my own ageism—*Do I really need to dye my hair to get a job? (Maybe.)* What about the ageist messages we've internalized from our culture telling us: thin = beauty; older people are not able to keep up with computers, culture, sexuality, information sharing, and all the other things our culture tells us should be important.

As our Wisdom Circle members grow in relationship and in creating common language and vision, I think we are becoming supports for each other as we push against society's boundaries to have lives that feel more meaningful, more deeply connected to All, and more empowered. We are not done growing.

Community Lay Minister: I can tell you what it means for me. Several years ago—with the agreement and blessings of the Board—Rev. Beth, Rev. Morgan, and I created a covenant that allows me to lead occasional programs for elders at our church and in the larger community while having an official affiliation with our church. This is not a paid position. I am also connected to our congregation as a spiritual director: which means I get to meet with people who would like to deepen in their spiritual paths and help them notice, reflect, and grow in their connection to their experience of spirit and mystery. If you are curious if this might be helpful for you, I would enjoy that conversation. —Kate Raymond, Spiritual Director, Community Lay Minister

Spiritual Practice: Videos on finding wisdom: ♦ Nicole Wilson: *Lessons from a lifetime of bad advice* https://www.ted.com/talks/nicole_wilson_lessons_from_a_lifetime_of_bad_advice

♦ Anne Lamott: *Twelve truths I learned from writing and life* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X4IiulkRqZU>

March Sunday Worship, Wisdom

Hymn of the Month, *Metta Prayer* by Ruth Huber, *Metta is a Buddhist meditative practice of extending 'loving kindness' first to yourself and then to an expanding circle that embraces all beings. The song came to me while I was walking in my neighborhood. It felt like a gift, so I share it freely. We have been using it to close our meditation group for many years now.*

Offering: CRE Choice—UC Davis Häagen-Dazs Bee Haven: receives 1/2 Sunday offering. A unique outdoor museum that provides resources for local bee pollinators, inspires and educates visitors to create pollinator habitat gardens, and provides a site for the observation and study of bees and the plants that support them. beegarden.ucdavis.edu/ Check UUCD; memo: Offering. Text UUCD Offering to 73256. Social Hall Giving Kiosk.

Deep Listening Question: How much do you trust the wisdom of your intuition?

March 1, 9:30 & 11:15am, *Celebrating Music in Our Lives*; Alison Skinner, Music Director; Barbara Meixner & Linda Birse, Juuliebells Co-Directors; LuAnn Higgs, Accompanist; Andrei Baumann, Guest Pianist; Rev. Beth Banks, Worship Leader. The UUCD World Cafés (*intentional conversational gatherings*) showed that music is one way we feel a sense of connection. Relationships strengthen among people in our choirs and when we join in song. Feel the appreciation that flows between those who offer music and those who receive.

Evensong: March 1, 6:45-7:45pm, *Wisdom*, Rev. Beth Banks & Patty Schade. Focus: the wisdom we find in others and what we discover within ourselves. Transition from day to evening, weekend to week. Invite friends to slow down and witness beauty. Small Group Ministries can attend together. Participate or let the music flow around you. Candlelight, repetitive singing, readings, ritual.

March 8, 9:30 & 11:15am, *The Wisdom of "I do not know,"* Rev. Beth Banks; Cliff Ohmart, Worship Associate; Deepening Connections: Alex Haider-Winnett & UCD Campus Students. UUs draw wisdom from six sources; #3, *Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life*. This service is one of our "outside the box" formats, with four perspectives. Bill Fell, Buddhist; Anne Kjemtrup Muslim; Rev. Beth Banks UU; and Cliff Ohmart is invited to bring his personal perspective.

RE: Bridgehouse, 2nd service: Beekeeper brings a beekeeping suit, sample hive, maybe a queen bee!



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March 15, One Service ONLY 11:15am, *Stewardship: Connection and Pi*; Rev. Beth Banks, Rev. Morgan McLean, Worship Leaders; Deepening Connections: Beth Rezaee. This is a follow-up to the big, fun Stewardship dinner on Saturday evening (Pi Day, March 14). The Saturday evening event focuses on everything Pie but our service will do more with Pi, which is also referred to as being transcendental, constant, and infinite. There is one service and it may have some unexpected elements.

March 22, 9:30 & 11:15am, *The Wisdom to Shape Life*; Rev. Beth Banks; Meghan Kelly, Worship Associate. Who are the wisest people you know? Consider why they are your models for wisdom. We'll draw from a craftsperson who looks at the grain of a piece of wood, feels the pliability, and senses its potential.

March 29, 9:30 & 11:15am, *Common Courage*; Rev. Mary Katherine Morn, UUSC President and CEO; Rev. Beth Banks, Worship Leader. For 80 years, UUSC has been advancing UU values by working with justice makers the world over, from defying the Nazis to the current work of migrant and climate justice, Rev. Morn will share stories of the common courage that is transforming the world; one brave, ordinary act at a time.

Listen

Edited Sunday services at <http://uudavis.org/worship-2/past-worship-services/>
Special thanks to Kirk Ridgeway, who edits and posts these worship services!