

the Outlook

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Verdugo Hills

4451 Dunsmore Avenue, La Crescenta, CA 91214

www.uuverdugo.org

November 2015

Volume 20, Issue 11



Unitarian Universalist Church
of the Verdugo Hills
818.248.3954
uucvh@uuverdugo.org

Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey
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Minister's Office Hours:
Tue 6-9pm
Wed 11am-4pm
Thur 6-9pm
Fri by appt.

Elizabeth Brown
Religious Ed. Coordinator

Ann Kleinsasser, *President*
Roy Lopez, *Vice-President*
Vivienne Payne, *Secretary*
Gary Clark, *Treasurer*
Teresa Jones, *Administrator*



IMAGINE

a religion that embraces many
different beliefs.

Where all are accepted; where
we cherish the process of
developing our own spiritual
path;
where we respectfully support
the paths of others.

Welcome to UUCVH!

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

10:30 AM

Children's Religious Exploration Education class concurrent

November 1

"Social Action Heroes that are changing the world"

Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey

Unitarian Universalists are committed to acting on important issues of social justice throughout the world. This service will look at the life of several UU's and the work of journalist Michelle Bates Deakin who explores the actions of individuals and the impact their actions have had on their communities and their souls. Seeing what others can do illuminates the potential for deep change inherent in each of us, and in Unitarian Universalism as a whole.

November 8

"Strange As Folks"

Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey

What's Gender Got to do with it? These words hit me like a ton of bricks recently. Here I am a multicultural 21st century human being and I have a lot to learn about the multiplicity of orientations that exist in the human family. Join us at UUCVH as we explore some assumptions, misconceptions, and even celebratory facts as we learn together more about STANDING ON THE SIDE OF LOVE.

November 15

"Compassion"

Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey

Compassion is the one feeling I actively seek to grow in others and in myself. It has the power to move people like very few other things. In this understanding of the power of compassion we have an ability to see the suffering of others and ourselves in a new light. After we embrace compassion hopefully we can begin to empathize and allow space for grace and dear I say love to begin. Please join us for a service in service of others and ourselves

November 22

"Thanking The Ancestors"

Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey

Join us for this lively service celebrating some of the nations, cultures and people that have paved the way for us to celebrate all that is our lives.

November 29

A Special Service, To be Announced

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

For only the second time since we returned to California 20 years ago, we will not be taking our annual Thanksgiving trek to Alan's parents' home in Reno, NV. As our family grows and ages, a one-car trip with one stop-over has become a multi-car affair with four days of driving, so we have decided to forego our tradition this year. We will miss the breathtaking views of the Sierra range, golden aspens along the highway, the tufa towers of Mono Lake, and travelling alongside the churning Walker River. And the very special shared times we have enjoyed will be remembered as we celebrate Thanksgiving in new ways this year.

I enjoy this season in which we consciously reflect on the things we are thankful for in our lives; family is right at the top of my list. And I think our church community is something for which we all feel deep gratitude. I am thankful to see all of your shining faces on Sunday mornings and for the many ways in which you all create and sustain our congregation. This may be a good time to thank each other for things small and large such as providing inspiration and leadership, maintaining our building and outdoor space, preparing goodies for coffee hour on Sunday mornings, cleaning up, managing our church office, shepherding our finances, welcoming visitors, making connections within and beyond our church, nurturing our children, providing music and technical support, organizing social gatherings, preparing delicious food to share, decorating and beautifying our shared space...surely we have many things to be thankful for.

Ann Kleinsasser



Sunday, November 1
First Sunday Potluck
11:30am

Bring a luncheon dish to share following worship service!



New Member Orientation!

Sunday, November 1

9:15-10:00am

And again on

Saturday, November 14

5:00-5:45pm

New Member Orientation!

Bring your questions, come prepared to learn new things about Unitarian Universalism and maybe, just maybe you will want to join us and become officially members of the UUCVH family.

For more information please contact Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey at the congregation – 4451-248-3954 or email us at uucvh@uuverdugo.org

Light refreshments served.



**Sundays at Noon: November 1,
8, 15, 22.**

With Rev. Gordon

**BUILDING YOUR OWN THEOLOGY
(BYOT)**

Everyone is welcome, including repeat "students"! This curriculum discusses all the important questions of religion from a UU perspective, allowing each to come to their own understanding of what makes sense and works. It's a wonderful way to get to know other UUCVH'ers and to explore your own faith.

CONTINUING CONVERSATIONS with Rev. Gordon

Happy November to all. While many in the nation bemoan this season I love it. The trees back east have usually been a delight this time of year. But now I'm learning of new wonders. Here in California its warm, a bit wetter than I expected and incredibly beautiful as it is all year long. I'm learning about the flowering things that seem to appear almost daily. And sweet smells as I walk and take in the sights.

This is a big season for me for multiple reasons. I'm celebrating my first Holiday season with you (UUCVH) and feeling pretty good! I am very fond of this community and have grown to love this place so quickly. You all make it really easy!

Now comes the hard part, or at least the more rigorous part of why I'm with you. I've got a good feeling that we are on the verge of doing something special here. It's the kind of feeling I get when I know the groundwork has been laid and all we, as a community of faith, have to do is reap the harvest.

This congregation has done much work. You all have sustained a liberal spiritual community in a mostly theologically conservative neighborhood for years.

You have stood for many good and righteous things like integration and tolerance, love and nonviolence for many years. Your Unitarian Universalist credentials are good!

Heck, you hired me and that speaks volumes about the kind of community your willing to be. But, folks, I have to ask more of you. Now is the time to push up your sleeves again. I believe we are on the precipice of growth. I have seen new people coming through our doors, calling and asking questions and even stopping by.

My hope is that we are ready? Do you feel it? If not, get ready to jump on board because its time to grow and here are a few things I have in mind that I think will help.

Be passionate. If we are going to grow our congregation, we must be passionate about this ministry. Those in the Bible who accomplished great things were passionate and committed men and women. Elijah was passionate and unafraid when he confronted Ahab, the king (1 Kings 17-19). As a result, he saw a nation touched by an awesome power. So, let's be passionate men and women of Spirit. Our ministry will be the better for it.

Be open. If UUCVH is going to grow we have got to be open to doing things differently. This applies to the Sunday Services, the new Soulful Saturday Service (starting Saturday November 14th from 6-7 pm), Religious Education for adults and families, the upkeep of our buildings and grounds, our committees and groups, and, of course, our attitude.

Being open doesn't mean what we did before wasn't good enough. It means we can, and will, do what it takes to improve, change develop, and make new. Its about *the way* we do things around here. It's about RADICAL HOSPITALITY!

Be of service. Yes, this means you! If you're homebound, maybe you can make phone calls or emails? If you're working all day, maybe it's a few batches of cookies by night to share with a group home or the homeless? If you're not sure what gifts and talents you have to share, come by and speak with me one-on -one or in a group to find out exactly which of your many talents you will share.

Trust me; we all have something good, something right, and something of value to give to this congregation and more importantly to this community. So, noone is exempt!

(Contd. next page)

I'm looking for us to grow by at least two members each month – twenty to twenty-four this 2015-16 year.

I know we can do it! I've got a feeling! This year's going to be a good, good year and it all begins with you!

Lets celebrate November in all of its glory. For some people this means Thanksgiving, for others a reemergence of traditions from their people long forgotten and needing to be heard, seen, and experienced again. For others, new traditions just recently found.

So I'm wishing you all a Happy November- to All Saints, All So,uls, All People together as one united to bring a message of hope, peace and love to Los Angeles county, Glendale, La Crescenta and all people far and wide.

In faith,

Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey



World Religions Meet-Up at UUCVH
Adult Religious Education
Tuesdays evenings: November 3, 10, 17.
7:00pm – 8:00pm




Come and join us for spiritual enrichment!

The world contains a variety of scriptures, prophets, holy cities, and spiritual traditions. There are as many reasons to study the religions of the world, as there are believers, seekers, doubters and devotees.

Our primary text is Huston Smith's *The World's Religions* and our companion text is *The World's Wisdom* edited by Phillip Novak

Facilitator/Guide- Rev Gordon Clay Bailey, M Div.,
BCC, PC Minister of the Unitarian Universalist
Church of the Verdugo Hills.

Upcoming Topics:

-  Nov. 3 "Judaism"
-  Nov. 10 "Christianity"
-  Nov. 17 "Islam"



Monday, November 2
Knitting Circle
7:00pm

All skill levels welcome.
Knitting Circle meets in members' homes.
Contact Ann Rillo to join in!



NEW DATE!

The Membership Committee will be meeting
on Sunday, November 8
9:00 to 10:00 a.m. (before the service)

Come help us plan ways to build connections
with other members and newcomers!
*See chair Florence Chase if you are interested in
joining.*

COME INTO THE CIRCLE
Religious Education Exploration



Happy November to all our families of UUCVH!

We have been talking a lot about our 2nd principle... Be kind in all you do. Our children are working hard on understanding what kindness is and what it means to be kind. While we know what kind words are, it can be a challenge to identify daily ways to be kind to one another.

Here are some conversation-starters about kind actions:

- 🌈 What makes you feel happy to help?
- 🌈 How can we work as a team?
- 🌈 What can we share with others?
- 🌈 How can we show respect for the earth?
- 🌈 Do we pitch-in without expecting something in return?
- 🌈 What small gestures can you provide to others?
- 🌈 How can we look on the bright side more often?
- 🌈 Do we catch ourselves before criticizing others' efforts?
- 🌈 Do we take the extra moment to cheer up someone?
- 🌈 Do we remember to say "thank you"?

For the month of November, we are going to be talking about being thankful! We can't wait to hear what the children are thankful for and what things they might be able to do to give back to those who have helped them to grow, learn and thrive in life.

Happy November!

Warmly,

Elizabeth S. Brown,
Religious Education Coordinator



Wednesday, November 11

7:00pm

UUCVH Board Meeting

Meetings of the Board of Trustees are open to all members. Join us!



Friday, November 13

Women's Group Potluck

12:00pm

Contact Deane Phinney for info.

Or, just show up!

*Aesthetics Committee following.

***Getting To Know
UU Class***

Saturday, November 14

1:30-2:30pm

Rev. Bailey will facilitate these fun and informative sessions on the second Saturdays every other month.

This class is geared for potential UUCVH members and others who would like to explore Unitarian Universalism, their own spiritual journeys and the workings of our congregation. For more information or to sign up, please contact Rev. Bailey at rev.uucvh@gmail.com or call the congregation and leave a message (818-248-3954)



New Member Orientation!
Saturday, November 14
5:00-5:45pm

Bring your questions, come prepared to learn new things about Unitarian Universalism and maybe, just maybe you will want to join us and become officially members of the UUCVH family. For more information please contact Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey at the congregation – 4451-248-3954 or email us at uucvh@uuverdugo.org Light refreshments served.

Soulful Saturday
November 14 at 6:00pm
Contemporary Music!

Connect! Feed your spirit!

Soulful Saturday is a monthly multigenerational early evening worship service led by Reverend Gordon Clay Bailey and others of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Verdugo Hills

Join us!

Saturday November 14th @ 6:00 pm.

See you then!



Thanksgiving Celebration

Thursday, November 26 - Sunday, November 29, 2015

Come to Camp de Benneville to enjoy a hassle-free Thanksgiving!

This is a special weekend for families, singles, couples, and young adults to gather in the spirit of sharing and togetherness. Fill your heart with community, while filling your stomach with delicious homemade treats--like cider, pie, and of course, turkey with all the fixin's. Vegans and vegetarians welcome!

Adults: \$195. Youth (3-17): \$150. Babes up to age 2 are FREE.

For more information on our Thanksgiving Celebration, or to register, visit www.uucamp.org

Registration question? Registrar@uucamp.org

Program or facility question? director@uucamp.org

Or 909-435-6298 to speak with the camp manager.



Monday, November 16
12pm (Noon)

Submissions Deadline!

Outlook Monthly Newsletter articles & announcements may be submitted by all members!

Tips to get your message out:

- ✓ Write it yourself
- ✓ Proofread and proofread
- ✓ Include contact person info
- ✓ Give date, time, & location
- ✓ Email items to the office at uucvh@uuverdugo.org

Terresa's

Office Hours

The Congregational Administrator works part-time, 20 hours per week. The best way to contact me is via email at uucvh@uuverdugo.org. I generally reply within two business days.

Office schedule...

Monday: office closed.

Tuesday/Wednesday: flex days, please call first, usually in from 10:00am-1:00pm but do run church errands these days.

Thursday: 9:30am-1:30pm.

Friday: 9:30am-1:30pm.

Saturday: office closed.

Sunday: office closed.

Thanks so much!
Terresa

BOARD MEETING MINUTES SUMMARY

10-14-15

Present: Reverend Gordon Bailey, President Ann Kleinsasser, Vice President Roy Lopez, Treasurer Gary Clark, Secretary Vivienne Payne, Trustee Pat Berberian, Trustee Howard Richman, Congregational Administrator Terresa Jones, Trustee Celia Eiben, Betsy Burcham.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. and members checked in.

Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on 9-9-15 were approved as read.

Minister's report: Rev. Gordon provided his report. The concept of a wayside pulpit was discussed. Gary raised the idea of projecting a message using light/shadow. Rev. Gordon suggested looking into ways to increase our web presence on search engines and highlighted the importance of advertising our existence as a welcoming congregation. Rev. Gordon has plans for a "Soulful Saturday" service once per month, time TBD.

Treasurer's report: Gary provided the Treasurer's Report.

Facilities: Paula provided a facilities report before the retreat on September 26th.

Progress on the back area:

Ann obtained a second fence estimate for the back area and will check with Elizabeth about where the outdoor area lies in terms of priorities for the RE program. Since it will be a rainy winter, the outdoor area is unlikely to be used much over the winter, so we will revisit the subject in the spring.

Membership committee report: The membership committee will meet on 15th October. Terresa is working with the committee on the member directory.

RE committee report: The RE committee is planning a Halloween party on October 24th, starting 5 pm.

Worship Committee: Yvonne and Ann are working on the service for October 25th.

Old Business:

Newspaper article: Rev. Gordon has not yet heard from the CV weekly. Ann will get in touch with Mary O'Keefe again.

Fire drill: Fire drill went well.

New Business:

Following up from the retreat, the board discussed a review of the committees. The formation of hospitality/celebration and outreach committees were discussed, as were the idea of a pop-up choir and plans to re-instate UUCVH involvement for the dinner for Asencia every 5th Monday.

A motion to spend \$30 on agroupon for a banner was proposed, seconded and passed.

The board "start-up retreat" will be Saturday 17th October.

Next Meeting: Wednesday November 11th.

Respectfully submitted

Vivienne Payne, Secretary

UU OF THE MONTH: Olympia Brown



Universalist Olympia Brown is known as the first woman minister whose ordination was recognized by a denomination. She spent a lifetime working for women's suffrage and was among the few original suffragists still alive to vote, at long last, in 1919.

Olympia Brown was born to a Universalist family who valued education. Determined to seek higher education, she persuaded her father to allow her and a younger sister to go to college, first at Mary Lyons's Mount Holyoke Female Seminary in Massachusetts, and then at the better-suited Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio. Brown felt called to the Universalist ministry, and sought admission to theological school, although this was not an option open to women. She finally persuaded the president of St. Lawrence University to admit her in 1861. In her autobiography she writes, "Mr. Ebenezer Fisher, the President, replied that I would be admitted but he did not think women were called to the ministry." She continues, "President Fisher, in spite of his discomfiture at my entering the school, was just to me as a student, and never discriminated against me until I began to take steps toward ordination." When Brown completed her course of study in 1863, she had to convince the male ministers of the St. Lawrence Universalist Association to vote to ordain her so she could be called to parish ministry. The positive reception she received when she preached at local churches swayed the opinions of many of the ministers in her favor and Brown was ordained. She says, "Mr. Fisher had so far overcome his feelings that he took part in the [ordination] exercises."

After ordination, Brown served the church in Weymouth Landing, Massachusetts. With the blessing of her congregation, she spent months in Kansas speaking on behalf of women's suffrage, making her own living and speaking arrangements as she traveled. In 1870, she accepted a call to the Bridgeport, Connecticut, church. She married in 1873, keeping her own name, and gave birth to her first child the next year. In 1874, she decided to resign her ministry, although she continued to live in Bridgeport for two more years, giving birth to a second child in 1876.

After careful consideration of her calling and her options after her resignation from Bridgeport, Brown wrote to Mr. A. C. Fish, the clerk of the Universalist Church in Racine, Wisconsin, to offer her services. He wrote back that the parish was in an unfortunate condition, thanks to "a series of pastors easy-going, unpractical, and some even spiritually unworthy, who had left the church adrift, in debt, hopeless, and doubtful whether any pastor could again rouse them." Brown accepted the challenge, and she and her family moved to Racine in 1878. She worked to rejuvenate the church and establish it as a center of learning and culture and a forum for the discussion of social issues of the time, including women's suffrage. She invited Julia Ward Howe, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Susan B. Anthony to air their views from the pulpit. Under her ministry the women began to vote and hold offices in the church. After nine years of ministry, Brown left a thriving congregation and moved on to a new challenge. She left full-time ministry to become an activist for women's rights. For the next thirty-two years, she labored, spoke, and demonstrated on behalf of this cause.

In the fall of 1920, she returned to the Racine church and spoke about her life's work. She spoke the familiar words we find in Singing the Living Tradition, Reading 569: Stand by this faith. Work for it and sacrifice for it. There is nothing in all the world so important as to be loyal to this faith which has placed before us the loftiest ideals, which has comforted us in sorrow, strengthened us for noble duty and made the world beautiful. Do not demand immediate results but rejoice that we are worthy to be entrusted with this great message, that you are strong enough to work for a great true principle without counting the cost. Go on finding ever new applications of these truths and new enjoyments in their contemplation, always trusting in the one God which ever lives and loves.

Looking back on her career as a parish minister, Olympia Brown wrote: Those who may read this will think it strange that I could only find a field in run-down or comatose churches, but they must remember that the pulpits of all the prosperous churches were already occupied by men, and were looked forward to as the goal of all the young men coming into the ministry with whom I, at first the only woman preacher in the denomination, had to compete. All I could do was to take some place that had been abandoned by others and make something of it, and this I was only too glad to do.

November 2015						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:15-10am New Member Orientation 10:30am Worship Service "Social Action Heroes" Rev. Bailey 11:30am Potluck Luncheon Noon, Adult RE "Building Your Own Theology"	2 7:00pm Knitting Circle @ member's home	3 7 – 8 pm Adult RE & Open Meet-Up Group : World Religions Class	4 10am-1pm Cleaning Service, facilities not available.	5 7–8:30pm Staff Meeting	6	7
8 9-10am Membership Comm 10:30am Worship Service "Strange As Folks" Rev. Bailey Noon, Adult RE "Building Your Own Theology"	9	10 7 – 8 pm Adult RE & Open Meet-Up Group : World Religions Class	11 7pm Board Meeting	12	13 12noon - 1pm Women's Group Potluck Luncheon	14 1:30-2:30pm Getting To Know UU Class 5-5:45pm New Member Orientation 6pm Soulful Saturday Service Rev. Bailey
15 10:30am Worship Service "Compassion" Rev. Bailey Noon, Adult RE "Building Your Own Theology"	16 <i>Noon: Newsletter Deadline</i>	17 7 – 8 pm Adult RE & Open Meet-Up Group : World Religions	18	19	20	21
22 10:30am Worship Service "Thanking The Ancestors" Rev. Bailey Noon, Adult RE "Building Your Own Theology"	23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving Celebration @ deBenneville Pines	27 Thanksgiving Celebration @ deBenneville Pines	28 Thanksgiving Celebration @ deBenneville Pines
29 10:30am Worship Service Thanksgiving Celebration @ deBenneville Pines	30					All events take place at UUCVH unless otherwise noted

the *Outlook*

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