

the Outlook

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Verdugo Hills
4451 Dunsmore Avenue, La Crescenta, CA 91214
www.uuverdugo.org

December 2015
Volume 20, Issue 12



EVERY SUNDAY AT 10:30 AM

CHILDREN'S FAITH DEVELOPMENT CLASS CONCURRENT.

"We are Unitarian Universalists: a people of the open mind,
the loving heart, and the helping hands."

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

Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey
rev.uucvh@gmail.com

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!

December 6

"Let it Go!" Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey

Join us for an interesting journey through the ups and downs of the Holiday Season. We explore the over eating and family gatherings and finally end up talking about what's really at the core of our beings and, if need be, how to Let It all Go.

December 13

"So, Is That All There Is?" Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey

The year's coming to an end; the gifts and food have made me glad but, is that all there is? Come to UUCVH as we explore the great questions of life or at least ask some pertinent questions as the year 2015 comes to a close and we peak or glance at the New Year to come.

December 20

"It's A Wonderful Life" Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey

Frank Capra's movie resounds with the idea that every life is precious. I wonder if we all actually believe this. I sense that some lives are more important than others and that ultimately we as human beings have a hierarchy of worth associated with who gets to live, die or even enjoy basics of life. Join us at UUCVH during this special season as we grapple with the realities of human stories from around the nation and world.

December 21, Monday Solstice Service at 6:00pm

"Remembering Our Past" Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey

The Winter Solstice has become important to both humanists, theist and pagans, who find some common ground in celebrating this night. We will include light amid darkness; the death of nature and the cycle of life; the darkness just before the dawn; the miracle of every birth amongst the music & wonder of it all. Join us for an evening of connecting to our past.

December 24, Thursday Christmas Eve Service at 5:00pm

Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey

Come in from the cold, now we gather.

Come in for the warmth that we'll share.

A people of hope and of memory.

We light our chalice and take time to care.

Join us for an evening filled with songs, readings and merry making!

December 27

"A Quiet Midwinter Moment" Ann Kleinsasser, Lay leader

After the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, come join us for this morning of contemplative readings, music, and moments of meditation.

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

As we move into this season of “giving”, I am so pleased to see that our congregation is becoming more active in giving and sharing our time, talents and resources in the areas of social action/justice and community service—not just for the holiday season, but on into the future.

We have just completed our gift-giving project for the Department of Children and Family Services. Your generous gifts are on their way to these children, and are sure to bring joy.

I am delighted that we have been able to reestablish our connection with Ascencia, which provides services to homeless people in Glendale. Several volunteers from our congregation prepared and served a meal in November for the greatly expanded homeless shelter. We plan to continue providing this service periodically. If you are interested in helping, please contact Jerry Buchanan or Frances Kuraoka.

Also in November, a hearty group from our congregation rolled up their sleeves and participated in a Wilderness Workday in Deukmejian Wilderness Park. We will watch for upcoming workdays in the Los Angeles area.

It seems like our basket of items for the Burbank Temporary Aid Center has been fuller lately. It has been helpful in recent months to get reminders of which particular items are especially needed at the Center. I hope we will continue to keep the contributions coming through the holiday season and beyond.

Other opportunities for service and activism: Rev. Gordon is gathering volunteers to help with Habitat for Humanity in the San Gabriel Valley. Lisa Bailey is active in working for racial justice and welcomes others who wish to become involved.

I hope we can continue to work together and find fulfillment in “giving” to others in our community and beyond. Wishing you much joy in “giving” during this holiday season!

Ann Kleinsasser



A special December
birthday wish...
Happy Birthday
Charlotte!



Saturday, December 5, 2015
Winter Holiday Potluck Party
5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**RSVP before Tuesday,
December 1**

*** Music * Games * Gift
Exchange * Food * Fun
* Fellowship**

Bring your families and
friends for a yummy Potluck
Spaghetti Dinner! Bring
wrapped white elephant
gifts!

Sign-up sheet now in
Fellowship Hall or contact
Ann Kleinsasser with your
reservation and the type of
potluck food you will be
bringing: salad, bread, or
dessert!

CONTINUING CONVERSATIONS

with Rev. Gordon

"Happy, happy Christmas, that can win us back to the delusions of our childhood days, recall to the old man the pleasures of his youth, and transport the traveler back to his own fireside and quiet home!" -- Charles Dickens

"If we never experience the chill of a dark winter, it is very unlikely that we will ever cherish the warmth of a bright summer's day. Nothing stimulates our appetite for the simple joys of life more than the starvation caused by sadness or desperation." -- Anthon St Maarten

"May the lights of Hanukkah usher in a better world for all humankind." - Anonymous

"The seven principles of Kwanzaa -- unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith -- teach us that when we come together to strengthen our families and communities and honor the lesson of the past, we can face the future with joy and optimism." -- President Bill Clinton

Holidays, secular economic frenzies, and the end of another year; here we go again...

Each year, December brings a month filled with holidays, celebrations complete with a variety of gift giving traditions, and—to the glee of students and educators alike—school vacations. But before the holidays, before the celebrations, before the money is gone let us consider a few things again or for the first time.

How do we as individual families celebrate our holiday celebrations? Do we do it with gift exchanges and other rituals?

In what ways does holiday gift-giving figure in the collective imagination through movies, TV shows, and great literature. Some of these offerings are performed, rerun and re-read year after year?

Trace your holiday traditions especially the practice of gathering for the feast and of course gift giving as it unfolds over time and consider if common themes and elements can be found within the great variety of spiritual traditions.

As the holiday season fast approaches, so often we find our days speeding faster past us. There just doesn't seem to be enough time in the month, for all that we have to do. We are trying to keep up with decorating, shopping, parties, end of the year meetings, purchasing that special new item that is on sale and keeping up with the gift giving of our friends and neighbors. We are so swamped with everything that we often don't take the time for the true spiritual meaning of the holiday season.

(continued on page 4)



Sunday, December 6
First Sunday Potluck
11:30am

Bring a salad luncheon dish to share following worship service!



Monday, December 7
UU Knitting Group
7:00pm

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



Wednesday, December 9
7:00pm

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

CONVERSATIONS WITH REV GORDON continued...

However, there is still time. These few words, hopefully, will give you some ideas on how to rekindle the special meaning of the season before it passes.

Here a few tips- first, write down your affirmations for what you want the season to be about. Place it where you can see it. Place it on your bathroom mirror or in your wallet, the refrigerator is really good too.

Look closely at your reasons for the holiday season. Is it about keeping up with your gift-giving friends and relatives? Is it about trying to compete with them? Or, is it about bringing service and light to others? Is it about trying to make every persons party? Or, is it about visiting someone that you haven't seen in some time? Is it about eating and drinking more, until you feel wasted? Or, is it about your quest for a deeper meaning in your values? Only you can examine this yourself.

Work to control things that you can. In life, there are things that you can control and those you can't. Focus on what you can. You can control over eating and drinking. You can control arguments and bad language. You can control charity towards those in need. You can control over spending. You can control visiting a lonely friend or neighbor. You can control if you come to the various offerings our church has for you this season.

For some, this is the loneliest time of the year. The holiday season can be fraught with pain and upset. Look around you. Has a friend or neighbor recently lost a loved one? Seek them out and spend some time with them. Invite them over or take them shopping. Plan something that is constructive with them. If a person lives far away, pick up your cellphone and give them a call. Do you have a co-worker or relative that has recently divorced? How about someone that is unemployed or underemployed, same thing reach out to them.

Look for something good around your life. Many people brace for the holidays, when they should be embracing the holiday season. Sometimes the smallest good can shine through to lift up your spiritual meaning of the season. You have to look for it.

Finally, take some time for yourself. Get away from everything for a few hours by yourself. Pick a place and time just for you. Schedule a block of time for your mind. Find a place to just relax and enjoy yourself. For some, it might be a few quiet moments in church. For others, it might be a stroll through the park. This time, for yourself, will give you the opportunity to focus on the spiritual meaning of the holiday season

In faith and love,
Rev Gordon Clay Bailey



**Friday, December 11
Women's Group Potluck
12:00pm**

Contact Deane Phinney for
info. Or, just show up!

NEW TO U.U.

Saturday, December 12

**"New to Unitarian
Universalism"
Class**

2:30 - 3:30pm

For more info contact
Rev. Gordon at
rev.uucvh@gmail.com

Soulful Saturday

December 12 at 4:00pm

**Contemporary Music!
Engage yourself...
Indulge your spirit.**

Soulful Saturday is a
monthly multigenerational
afternoon-evening worship
service led by the Reverend
Gordon Clay Bailey and
others of UUCVH

Join us!

Saturday December 12
4:00 pm.

The theme this month is
"Awe and Wonder."
See you then!



Thursday, December 17 at 7:00 PM
301 N. Orange Grove Blvd, Pasadena.
Neighborhood U U Church

Are you concerned with the state of racial relations but have no idea what to do or where to go to support the efforts of

those who are doing something? Think of the racism towards the Syrian Refugees that is increasing and the LAPD's rapidly growing list of people killed by their personnel.

A group of white folks who are looking to answer those questions and others, such as, what stops us from getting involved and how to support the efforts of Black Lives Matter and other groups addressing the racial justice inequities rampant in our country and Los Angeles County have begun meeting monthly.

Please join our conversation and get answers for yourself and others on how we can be better allies to our sisters and brothers of color!



The next meeting is at the Neighborhood Unitarian Universalist Congregation, December 17th, 7:00 PM,



UUCVH REMEMBERS THOSE IN NEED AND GIVES GENEROUSLY!

Since January 2015, we all have contributed to supporting those in need at the Burbank Temporary Aid Center (BTAC).

Here is our congregation's current tally for this year...

-  Hygiene Products: 139 kits and items.
-  Food: 678 packages and meals.

817 donations! These are impressive numbers!

Can we reach 1,000 by year's end?

Let's all try to meet this goal together!

For over 40 years, UUCVH has helped fill the pantry cupboards at BTAC to assist families struggling with unemployment and homelessness. Thank you for remembering others when you bring urgently needed donations for BTAC on Sunday!

BTAC especially needs...

Canned Meats (chicken and tuna) and Peanut Butter.

Canned goods with easy-open pull-tabs are especially appreciated. Please, no ramen noodles, or exotic, specialty-food items!



Sunday, December 13
9:00 a.m. (before Service)
Membership Committee
meeting




Come help us plan ways to build connections with other members and newcomers!

See chair Florence Chase with your interest.



Monday, December 14
12pm (Noon)
Submissions Deadline!

Outlook all members may submit monthly Newsletter articles & announcements!

-  Include contact person info
-  Give date, time, & location
-  Email items to the office at uucvh@uuverdugo.org

BOARD MEETING MINUTES SUMMARY

11-11-15

Present: Rev. Gordon Bailey, Pres. Ann Kleinsasser, Secretary Vivienne Payne, Trustee Pat Berberian, Trustee Howard Richman, Cong. Admin. Terresa Jones, Trustee Celia Eiben, Treas. Gary Clark

Minister's report: Rev. Gordon provided his report. He proposed updates to the Order of Service. He suggests initiating a connection with a sister congregation elsewhere in the world. He plans to hold a "drumming circle" one Thursday per month.

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

Membership committee report: The membership committee is planning a potluck holiday party for December 5th. The committee discussed having a pledge/canvass chair.

RE committee report: Halloween party was a great success.

Worship Committee: Howard is planning a service for the end of November. The worship committee also will plan a service for the end of December. On January 24th, (Sunday after MLK day) we will have Gerald Rivers, who emulates MLK.

Old Business:

Newspaper article: Article about Rev. Gordon and UUCVH appeared in the CV Weekly.

Committee review: Betsy and Sandy have signed up to join Celia in forming a hospitality committee.

Social action: Howard and Terry will co-ordinate children's' gifts for DCFS. UUCVH will restart our involvement in the Ascencia dinner, starting November. Cindy is handling sign-up for trails and open space workdays at Deukmejian Park – UUCVH T-shirts were discussed in the context of these events. Lisa will connect us with racial justice groups.

Choir: Rev. Gordon is planning to organize a pop-up choir.

New business:

Action items from board retreat: The board discussed action items from our retreat with Ken Brown

Visibility: Gary will look into electronic signage options for greater church visibility.

Celebration of 25th anniversary of Burbank/Foothills merger: We plan to celebrate this at one of our Sunday salad luncheons. The date will be planned around Rev. Gordon's ordination.
Rev. Gordon's ordination – maybe in February. Rev. Gordon will contact prospective speakers and figure out a date.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 9th December.

Respectfully submitted

Vivienne Payne, Secretary

UU HERO OF THE MONTH



Whitney Young, Jr.
(1921-1971)

an African American Unitarian Universalist (UU) who was executive director of the National Urban League and an activist in the civil rights movement.

Whitney Moore Young, Jr. was an American civil rights leader. He spent most of his career working to end employment discrimination in the United States and building the National Urban League.

Born:
July 31, 1921, Lincoln Ridge, KY

Died:
March 11, 1971, Lagos, Nigeria

Spouse:
Margaret Buckner
(m. 1946–1971)

Awards:
Presidential Medal of Freedom

Books:
Beyond Racism and *To Be Equal*

Parents:
Whitney M. Young, Laura Young

December 2015						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 RSVP due for Winter Holiday Party! 7-8pm Adult RE World Religions	2 10am-1pm Cleaning Service, facilities not available.	3	4	5 5-8pm Winter Holiday Family & Friends Potluck Party!
6 10:30am Worship Service "Let it Go!" Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey 11:30am First Sunday Potluck Salad-Luncheon <i>Hanukkah, at sundown (to 12/14)</i>	7 7-8:30pm Staff Meeting 7pm UU Knitting Group @ member home	8 <i>Bodhi Day</i>	9 7pm Board Meeting	10 3-10pm Private Rental (Paula H)	11 12noon-1pm Women's Group Potluck Luncheon	12 2:30-3:30pm New To U.U. Class 4pm Soulful Saturday Service "Awe & Wonder," Rev. Bailey
13 9-10am Membership Committee 10:30am Worship Service "So, Is That All There Is?" Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey	14 <i>Noon: Newsletter Deadline</i>	15	16	17 7pm "Race Relations Conversation For Answers" monthly at Neighborhood UU in Pasadena	18	19
20 10:30am Worship Service "It's A Wonderful Life" Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey 3-5pm Private Rental (Ann K)	21 6pm Solstice Service "Remembering Our Past" Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey <i>Solstice, Yule</i>	22	23 <i>Mawlid an Nabi, sundown</i>	24 5pm "Christmas Eve" Service Rev. Gordon C. Bailey	25 <i>Christmas</i>	26 <i>Kwanzaa (thru 1/1)</i>
27 10:30am Worship Service "A Quiet Midwinter Moment" Ann Kleinsasser, Lay leader	28	29	30	31 <i>Watch Night</i>	1 <i>Happy New Year!</i>	All events take place at UUCVH unless otherwise noted

Calendar



- 🌈 Dec 1 RSVPs due for Winter Holiday Potluck Party!
- 🌈 Dec 1 Adult RE World Religions class 7pm
- 🌈 Dec 5 UUCVH Winter Holiday Family Potluck Party!
- 🌈 Dec 6 First Sunday Potluck Luncheon 11:30am
- 🌈 Dec 7 Staff Meeting 7pm
- 🌈 Dec 7 Knitting Circle 7pm *at member home*
- 🌈 Dec 9 Board Meeting 7pm
- 🌈 Dec 11 Women's Group Potluck Luncheon, noon
- 🌈 Dec 12 New to UU class 2:30-3:30pm
- 🌈 Dec 12 Soulful Saturday Contemporary Service 4pm
- 🌈 Dec 13 Membership Meeting 9am
- 🌈 Dec 14 Newsletter Deadline, noon
- 🌈 Dec 17 "Race Relations Conversation For Answers," Pasadena 7pm
- 🌈 Dec 21 Solstice Service at UUCVH 6pm
- 🌈 Dec 24 Christmas Eve Service at UUCVH 5pm
- 🌈 Dec 31 New Year's Eve!

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