

the Outlook

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



Unitarian Universalist Church of the Verdugo Hills

818.248.3954
uucvh@uuverdugo.org

Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey
RevGordon@UUVerdugo.org

Minister's Office Hours:
Please call for apt.

Elizabeth Brown,
Religious Ed. Coordinator
Marty Barrett, *President*
Cindy Lopez, *Vice-President*
Amy Starbin, *Secretary*
Vivienne Payne, *Treasurer*
Nancy Watkins, *Administrator*



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

Welcome to UUCVH!

May 6

March, March, March **Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey**

We are in the midst of a renewal of activism. Our young and old have taken to the streets of America again and for good cause. The question I'm posing today is do we get caught up in the power of the moment and lose sight of the behind the scenes work that must be done? Or do we even choose to forget that? If change is really going to come it begins with us as individuals. Join us at UU Verdugo as we take a good look at the history of Marches and their lasting after effects.

May 13

Mother's Day **Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey**

A time for letting those who have cared for us in a profound way know how much we appreciate them. But what of the other implications around what mothering can be? How about Mothering Sunday? Let's lift mother figures and let's find a spiritual connection. Let's relive, if only for a moment, the feeling you had once being UU was known.

May 20

Poetry, Creativity and the Beauty of Language **Lay Lead**

Words can express our innermost feelings, philosophies, humor, beauty and so many things that tie us together in our common humanity. Please join us today as we listen to congregation members share readings and recitations of original and favorite works of poetry and prose.

May 27

We Remember **Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey**

Join us at UU Verdugo this Memorial Day. We, along with our nation, shall honor and thank those military service personnel that have lost their lives for our wars and causes. On this day I'd like us to both honor them and to lift up a family member, a hero, a great soul that has changed your life. Pictures are very welcome along with short stories to share.

Spiritually Speaking
Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey
May 2018

UU - L.I.F.E.- LIVING IN FAITH EVERYDAY

Living in faith every day is easier said than done. In fact, life without the faith part is hard enough. Once we add the religious/spiritual dimension it can become harder, confusing, frustrating, depressing, etc. You see for many, if not most, it is easy to live in Faith when everything is going good. But how do you live in Faith when things go bad or you feel as if everyone is against you and everything around you is falling to pieces? How do you live a faith filled UU life when your particular life is one of privilege, good things and positions of economic superiority?

I've been asked the question by people who aren't privileged. White, Black, Asian, Latinex it doesn't matter if you are poor, then the questions about salvation, surviving, basic necessities, legalities, plain and simple living a life without constant pain and upset brings this to mind. The questions about who do you turn to when things are down? Or maybe more plainly put, who will help me in the midst of my despair is often asked.

This is a game changer in terms of haves versus have nots. The people of the earth, the people of North America, the people of the USA who have the good fortune to not need a God that will save them. This typically UU position on faith allows for a radically different global view and yet I'd like to dismantle this notion if only for a while as I ask us to go deep inside and reflect on our individual positions we live in keeping in mind all aspects of our being and tying this garment into a cohesive L.I.F.E. knot.

Our privileged UU's allow us not to engage many conversations. We typically don't have the concerns of the poor. We aren't usually in the worst housing, low performing school districts, food deserts. We by virtue of our beauty, brilliance or birth right have navigated ourselves into preferred living. Yet the have nots who, maybe by no fault of their own, suffer under an economic system that makes it harder and harder to survive, let alone thrive, must have a theological discourse that offers hope.

See, no matter what is going on in your life; you should always Live In Faith Every day. Because you hit a curve in life, don't stop living in faith. Your money and career may not be what it should be, your marriage may have failed, you may be sick in your body and all the odds may even be stacked against you, but our principles still direct us to Live In Faith!

Hebrews 6:1 tells us without Faith it is impossible to please God. For UU's I would dare say that our 6th Principle - 'The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all' should tell us that living lives that are so much better than the other people is not acceptable.

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Hebrews 11:1 states that Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. But again I'd say that UU Principle #1- 'The inherent worth and dignity of every person' shows us beyond any responsible shadow of a doubt that we aren't living up to our potential as too many suffer in and around the areas we call home. Again the question is are you living by what you see and experience, or living into UU Faith?

As Unitarian Universalist, we have to learn how to trust each other, our leadership, our denomination, and our faith no matter what. You may not see it, but continue to trust that if you apply efforts, good deeds, resources, intelligence, and working together across all lines for change good things will begin to happen for you and those in need.

JUJustice –LA needs you! The UUSC (Unitarian Universalist Service Committee) needs you. Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism needs you as do the UUJEC (Unitarian Universalist for just economic community) and a plethora of other UU's working on the side of love.

Don't allow the people on your job, your personal circumstance or the negative amount in your bank account to stop you from living in this UU faith every day. You must trust and act. Maybe you must believe in God with all of your heart and soul? Maybe you need to know that life on this earth; in our nation in our L.A. area depends on your living faithfully.

In the end when our race has been run it won't matter how much you own, or how much you have or how many credentials you've received. It will only matter how much you cared, if your actions somehow made a difference for others and how deeply you have loved and been loved. This is a faith filled LIFE.

May it be yours,

Rev Gordon Clay Bailey

Friendship Dinners! Saturday, May 19



Friendship Dinners will be held in members' homes on Saturday evening, May 19! Be sure to put your name on the sign-up sheet during coffee hour if you'd like to be included. Please indicate if you can be a host—guests will be divided among host homes and each host will call guests to set up time and potluck choices. These are always enjoyable evenings where we share a potluck dinner and get to know each other better.

ANNUAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The 2018 Annual Meeting of The Unitarian Universalist Church of the Verdugo Hills will be held **June 24, 2018, at 11:30am** in Fellowship Hall.

This notice goes out in accordance to Bylaws as amended 2017.

President's Column
Marty Barrett

Dear Friends,

The evangelicals who helped to elect Donald Trump often employ the expression "God uses imperfect tools" to justify their decision. While in this case that excuse seems a desperate rationalization (and is very funny when paired with the idea of a "tool"), the concept is intriguing, isn't it? It suggests, like "any port in a storm" or "the cracks are what let the light in" that we can get at the truth from a number of unexpected angles.

In 1884 the British educator Edwin Abbott Abbott (I know what you're saying: If he was so educated, why did he have a redundant Abbott?) wrote the book "Flatland: A Romance of Many Dimensions." While it was written as an allegory of Victorian England, its applications have multiplied since its publication.

The book describes a 2-dimensional world, Flatland, and the adventures of narrator A Square. In Flatland, the appearance of a 3-dimensional object causes consternation and panic. The residents simply cannot conceive of a being (in this case, The Sphere) with another dimension. In fact, the residents at first interpret The Sphere as a circle. Similarly, when A Square descends to the 1-dimensional Lineland, he has trouble convincing its monarch of his own existence. Then, when A Square suggests to his pal The Sphere that there might be a fourth or even fifth dimension, well, you'd think that The Sphere would be more open-minded, but he scoffs at the idea. Later, A Square encounters the sole inhabitant of Pointland, who is such a narcissist that he believes all ideas spring from himself.

As an allegory of Victorian England, "Flatland" is wickedly funny. As an allegory of who we often are today, unaccepting of the possibility of something outside our own dimension (or safe space, or box, or comfort zone), even when presented with evidence and even when that evidence is put in action, it's damning.

I don't know what to do with that Tool in the White House but, in our ministerial search and the things we have to think of going forward, let's not dismiss truth when we hear it, no matter the imperfections of its source. I hope we can add a dimension or two to this congregation.

Yours,

Marty Barrett, Board President



**APRIL
INTERFAITH
CALENDAR**

MAY 2018

1	Beltane - Samhain *- Wicca/Pagan Northern and Southern hemispheres Lailat al bara'ah * - Islam
2	Last day of Ridvan * - Baha'i
3	Saints Philip & James - Christian National Day of Prayer USA - Interfaith Lag B'Omer * Jewish
10	Ascension of Jesus – Christian
16-June 15	Ramadan * ** - Islam
17	Ascension of Jesus - Orthodox Christian
20-21	Shavuot * - Jewish
20	Pentecost – Christian
23	Declaration of the Bab * - Baha'i
27	Pentecost - Orthodox Christian Trinity Sunday – Christian
29	Ascension of Baha'u'llah * - Baha'i
31	Corpus Christi- Catholic Christian

ASCENCIA Lifting People Out of Homelessness

Friday May 11

Food prep begins at 2:00pm for meal service at 6:00pm.

1851 Tyburn Street, Glendale, CA 91204

Ascencia - volunteers needed to prepare food (2:30-5:00 pm) and then serve (5:00-7:00 pm) Friday, March 9. Please contact Reverend Bailey if you are available.



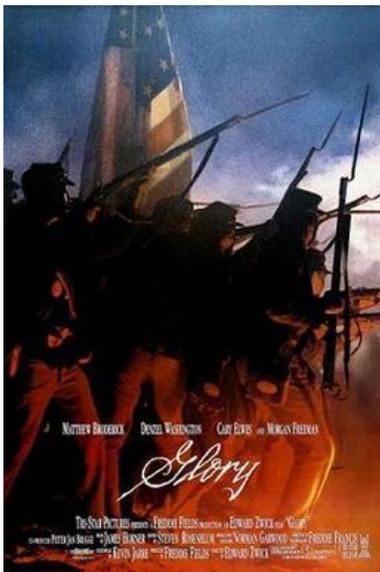
Attention Ralphs Grocery Shoppers!

As part of their program to give back to the community, Ralphs contributes up to 4% of your monthly purchases back to UUCVH. All you have to do is designate UUCVH as your non-profit organization of choice. If you have done this in the past, you must renew in September. To receive funds, an official of the group needs to visit

Here's how to sign up or renew:

- Be sure to have your Ralphs Rewards card handy
- Go to www.ralphs.com and either sign in or register
- Click on My Account > Account Settings > Community Rewards > Edit
- Enter UUCVH's organization code **83364** and click to search. Click button to select. Click Save to complete enrollment. Click Okay at top of page to save changes.
- If you do not yet have a Ralphs Reward card, they are available for free at the customer service desk at any Ralphs location.
- Do you use your phone number instead of your card at the register? Call Ralphs Rewards Card Hotline 800-660-9003 to get your Rewards Card number.
- Members must swipe their registered Ralphs Reward card or use the phone number that is linked to their registered Ralphs Reward card when shopping for each purchase to count.

Movie Night May 12, 7:00pm



In recognition of Memorial Day, we will be screening Glory as the film for May. We hope that you will come to see the film and enjoy some great pizza as well.

Glory is about one of the first military units of the Union Army, during the American Civil War to consist entirely of African-American men (except for its officers), as told from the point of view of Colonel Shaw, its white commanding officer. The regiment is known especially for its heroic actions at Fort Wagner.

Glory was nominated for five Academy Awards and won three, including one for Denzel Washington for Best Supporting Actor for his portrayal of Private Silas Tripp. It won many other awards from, among others, the British Academy of Film and Television Arts, the Golden Globe Awards the Kansas City Film Critics Circle, the Political Film Society and the NAACP Image Awards.



OUTLOOK NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS DEADLINE!

WEDNESDAY, MAY 23

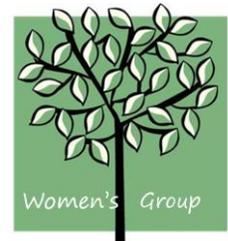
Tips to get your message out:

- ✓ Write it yourself.
- ✓ Proofread & correct.
- ✓ Include contact name with phone &/or email.
- ✓ Add date, time, location.
- ✓ Email items to the office

Note that Sunday Orders of Service Bulletin deadline is by the prior Monday.

communications@uuverdugo.org

Thanks!



WOMEN'S GROUP POTLUCK

Friday, May 11 @ Noon

Women and those who identify as women, bring a dish to share & have fun!



Sunday, May 6

First Sunday Potluck

Following service at 11:30am

Bring a salad luncheon dish to share!

UU Verdugo May Calendar

Friday, May 4	1:30 – 2:30pm	Balance Class
Sunday, May 6	10:30 – 11:30am 11:30am – 12:30pm	Worship Service First Sunday Potluck
Friday, May 11	12 – 1pm 1:30 – 2:30pm 2 – 5pm	Women's Group Potluck Luncheon Balance Class Guest Chef at Ascencia, Glendale
Saturday, May 12	7:00pm	Movie Night – “Glory”
Sunday, May 13	9 – 10am 10:30 – 11:30am 12 – 1pm	Membership Committee Worship Service Religious Education Committee
Wednesday, May 16	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	
Thursday, May 17	7 – 8pm	White People For Racial Justice Neighborhood Unitarian Universalist Church
Friday, May 18	1:30 – 2:30pm	Balance Class
Saturday, May 19	Friendship Dinner	
Sunday, May 20	10:30 – 11:30am 12:30 – 1:30pm	Worship Service Social Action Committee
Friday, May 25	1:30 – 2:30pm	Balance Class
Sunday, May 27	10:30 – 11:30am	Worship Service



RE REMINDERS:

1. If your child will not be attending church, we kindly ask that you email Elizabeth at elizabethb@uuverdugo.org and let her know. This helps us ensure appropriate staffing each Sunday.
2. RE Committee meets every 2nd Sunday of the month from 12-1
3. Children's Chapel is the 3rd Sunday of the month (unless there is an intergenerational service)
4. Intergenerational Services are quarterly (dates posted on Monthly "At-a-Glance" on our corkboard)
5. If you would like childcare at your event, please email Elizabeth at elizabethb@uuverdugo.org (at least two weeks before the event) with the following information:

Date:

Time:

Anticipated Attendee Info:

We will do our best to accommodate requests!

Thank you! The RE Department



Intergenerational Services

Why are intergenerational services so very important to me? I have been blessed with three children and one who particularly loves going to church. It is sometimes the highlight of her week. She asks me daily when it is a "church day" and when she gets to go to church with "mama". Clearly, UUCVH has become a fixture in her life and that makes me so very happy.

One thing that I think is important, is for all our children to feel connected to their various communities and intergenerational services at church do just that, they bring us all together to celebrate service through a child's eyes. We work really hard to find music, poems, and other pieces to bring the service together in a way that will capture a child's excitement, but also invite our adults to dive back into childhood. You might find yourself wiggling a bit in your seat when you hear a familiar song, or tapping your feet a bit more, you might find yourself reminiscing back when the wonders of spring were miraculous to you as a child.

Then after the service, it is our hope that you will join us to spend time with one another and with our children to work on collaborative projects in an effort to get to know them a little better. Can you guess which child loves to sew in our group? Can you guess which child is just about to finish 2nd grade? Can you guess which children bake cakes and enter them in contests? These special services are a great way to spend time with a child in our congregation and learn more about who they truly are.

Intergenerational services are some of my favorite services and I want to thank the congregation for embracing our desire to connect all of our congregants together. Below are some pictures of our last intergenerational service... it was truly a wonderful celebration of spring!

Do you have ideas for the next intergenerational service? Would you like to help? Would you like to be a reader or support person? Just let Elizabeth know, she would be thrilled to have you as a part of the plan!

Warmly,

Elizabeth

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We are working to get more supplies and books for our kids in the RE department!

Would you be willing to donate an item on our list? (posterboard to come)

Here's what we are wishing for :)

I Think, I Am!: Teaching Kids the Power of Affirmations
by Louise Hay, Kristina Tracy (amazon)

The Pink Hat
by Andrew Joyner (amazon)

I Can Handle It - Mindful Mantras (Volume 1)
by Ms. Laurie Wright (amazon)

Stick and Stone
by Beth Ferry, Tom Lichtenheld (amazon)

Round Table Puzzle- Kids Edition- Dinos
(50 piece) (amazon)

Ravensburger Disney: Finding Dory Glow in the Dark Puzzle (100 piece) (amazon)

Ingooooo Rainy Night Walk paper puzzle 1000 pieces (for older kids) (amazon)

Marble Run Toy- Melland 122 Pcs Marble Game STEM learning Toy (amazon)

Goodnight Stories for Rebel Girls 2
by Francesca Cavallo, Elena Favilli (amazon)

Please let Elizabeth know if you can help or take a leaf from our "wishes tree"!

Thanks so much!