



THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST COMMUNITY  
OF THE VERDUGO HILLS  
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# Sunday Services, December 2023

December 3—**Discussion Sunday: Gratitude**  
Moderated by **Prof. Bill Poehner**

On a very special day in his own life, congregant Bill Poehner leads Discussion Sunday's talk on Gratitude. Similarly gratifying will be the potluck afterward, both in Friendship Hall. These Sundays have become fruitful times for congregants and friends to share stories.

December 10—**There's Something About Mary**  
with **John Crye**

One of our most popular guest speakers returns with a service about the historical Mary, mother of Jesus, and her many idealized counterparts throughout the Christian tradition and especially here in America. What can Christians and non-Christians learn from Mary's many stories? With musical guest Laura Joy.

December 17—**Solstice, the Feast of the Unconquered Sun, And Other Reasons for the Season**  
with **Marty Barrett**

Long before the Emperor Constantine standardized December 25 as the birthday of Jesus, this time of year has been both a practical and a sacred time of celebration. Learn about our friend Sol Invictus and rage for the returning of the light!

December 24—**Christmas Eve Service**  
with **Anne Moratto** and **Ann Kleisasser**

Join us in the morning for a UUVerdugo tradition with candles, carols, and readings before we release you for the year into the snow 70-degree heat.

(December 31—**No Service**)

# Outreach & Sunday Services: Marty Barrett

Hello All,

It's been an activity-filled and gratifying year here at UUVerdugo. We've reached further into our community, welcomed new congregants, and expanded our offerings for both existing members and people in the Foothills who need a place to gather, be of service, organize, talk, and create. Our services have featured longtime UU ministers, scientists, artists, teachers, community leaders, and other inspired speakers, each with a twinkle in their eye and a love for and mastery of their subject.

Please note that attendees have not always been a *hundred percent* behind whatever the guest speaker may have been saying, but UUs are, by tradition and nature, critical thinkers if not occasionally ornery.

We've had numerous concerts, performances, and recitals, and this month closes out our sixth year of Verdugo HUUTs, a performance series that has brought musicians, comedians, and storytellers up the hill from all over Southern California. If you've yet to attend one, you're missing out!

In addition to partnerships with homeschool charters (we welcome Trellis in 2024!), we've worked with Teranga Ranch, Indigenous Peoples Day in the Foothills, Foothills Pride, S/T Forward, Ascencia, Making It Happen, the Bailey Food Center, Crescenta Valley Indivisible, the CV Chamber of Commerce, and a dozen offshoots and collaborations with those oft-overlapping organizations. In December we're happy to host an arts workshop with Mercedes Del Castillo of Arts And Education Nation.

Please join us throughout December and in 2024 as we continue to expand on the good work of a dynamic community and, if you're game for the white-knuckle thrill ride of membership in a UU congregation, ask literally anyone here for their completely contradictory summation of what Unitarian Universalism is! Because, as they say, if you've met one UU, then you've met one UU.

A note on the background image: This photograph from Weimar Germany is August Sander's "Arbeitslos," or Unemployed. When the Nazis came to power in 1936, Sander's "Antlitz der Zeit" (Face of the Time) series was destroyed, and this is the only image known to have survived.

Your Obedient Servant,  
Marty Barrett, Director of Outreach & Sunday Services

# From the Board President

Hello everyone!

By now you probably have had lots of good food with friends and family. I really enjoyed our own Friendsgiving on Monday before Thanksgiving. I was amazed how we had all the traditional and some non traditional dishes even though it was “bring what you want.” Paula’s smoked Turkey and Bill’s chili relleno casserole were my highlights. Elin brought Armenian coffee that was smooth and strong and helped me on the long drive home.

Howard and Madeline kept the Thanksgiving theme going as they made several green bean casseroles for Making it Happen dinners. Heading into Christmas, we have more shopping coming up for the MIH children we are supporting for Christmas gifts. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the gifts and to the purchase of a washing machine for a needy family.

Last Sunday we had a discussion on how to freshen up things up around the building. Celia suggested we move the children’s books over to the shelves in the corner of Friendship Hall to create a space for children. That way we are prepared should a family join us for Sunday service. Inspired by the discussion, Linda, Paula, Betsy, and myself did some practical consolidating and tossing of unused things in the back of the sanctuary and also in Friendship Hall. We were amazed how a bit a tidying up can make the place more welcoming and open. More to come from the ideas that came up. We even found the candles for Christmas Eve service in the cabinet at the back of the Sanctuary and a stuffed kittycat toy from Rev Betty’s time.

Speaking of Christmas Eve, since it falls on a Sunday, the plan is to have the Sunday morning service also include candles and carols. For New Year’s Eve, which is the next Sunday, we decided to take the Sunday off. Go ahead and sleep in on Dec 31 so you are ready for ringing in the New Year later that evening.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to wish you and all your loved ones, peace and love as we celebrate the community of mankind in our various traditions during this holiday season.

Blessings of health and peace,  
Mary Madill

# **Social Justice—Madeline Dow**

**Please Recycle your cans and bottles in the kitchen. Proceeds go to Social Justice projects!**

**Don't forget your nonperishable food and clothing in good condition for our partners Making It Happen and paper egg cartons for Bailey Food Bank.**

**Making It Happen Thanksgiving Meal: Many thanks to Ann, Mary, Vickie, and Abby for their wonderful cooked food and to Howard for supervising the casserole baking. We delivered the whole thing plus a pile of gorgeous warm jackets for distribution to those in need to Pattee of MIH just before Thanksgiving. They served 73 dinners at their facility, sent 100 dinners home, and delivered dozens of plates of food to other homeless in the community. Out offerings were much appreciated.**

**Holiday Gift Giving: our December donations for children and families will be delivered on December 4.**

**We are sponsoring a family of five, including three small children, with a gift of a refurbished washing machine. They are struggling with an ailing mom and a dad suddenly out of employment.**

**We received a beautiful thank you from our partners in The Baldwin Park Migrant Ministry for our gifts of food, clothing and transportation for refugees.**

**The poem attached to their thank you note reads:**

**“Do all the good you can  
By all the means you can,  
In all the ways you can,  
At all the times you can,  
To all the people you can,  
As long as you can.”**

**John Wesley**

**Many thanks to our members friends and families for all you generosity.**



# December 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>SUNDAY SERVICE ZOOM ID: 863 6623 2290 PASSWORD: 338258</b>		<b>NOTE: PRIVATE RENTALS ARE NOT LISTED ON THIS CALENDAR. CHECK W. MARTY FOR AVAILABILITY.</b>		1	2 <b>HUUT! 7 PM</b>	3 DISCUSSION SUNDAY FRIENDSHIP HALL & POTLUCK
4	5	6	7	8 ASCENCIA PREP 2-6	9 ARTS WORKSHOP \$25 SEE NEWSLETTER 10-1	10 SUNDAY SERVICE 10:30
11 Liz Conejo Flauta Fest - 2 p.m.	12	13	14	15 THIRD FRIDAY POTLUCK-NOON	16	17 SUNDAY SERVICE 10:30
18	19	20	21 BOARD MTG. RESCHEDULED 1:30	22	23	24 SUNDAY SERVICE 10:30
25 MAKING IT HAPPEN MONDAY (FOOD/CLOTHING DONATIONS)	26	27 NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS DUE	28	29	30	31 NO SERVICE

Presents

# Community

# Arts and Crafts Workshop



Get ready to tap into your creative side and dive into the world of Arts & Crafts at our Holiday workshop. Bring a friend and come create beautiful pieces and holiday gifts for your friends, family and coworkers!

Tickets in advance: \$20  
At the door: \$25

Zelle:  
Mercedes Del Castillo  
818-714-3633

**Hosted on:**  
**December 9, 2023**

**DIA DE LOS MUERTOS OFRENDA  
SERVICE**

Unitarian Universalist Church of  
the Verdugo Hills

4451 Dunsmore Ave, La



**HARVEST HOST GUESTS ANNA AND CYRIL FROM SWITZERLAND, TOOLING AROUND THE COUNTRY IN THEIR CONVERTED VW CRAFTER. HARVEST HOSTS IS A PROGRAM WHEREBY TRAVELERS CAN PARK OVERNIGHT IN A SAFE LOCATION AND BE ON THEIR WAY THE NEXT MORNING.**

YOUR VERDUGO HUUT PRESENTS

# huutactually

AN  
EVENING  
OF  
ORIGINAL  
HOLIDAY  
SONGS

DECEMBER  
2  
THE FINAL  
HUUT OF  
THE YEAR!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2 AT 7 P.M. | THE SANCTUARY AT UUVERDUGO  
4451 DUNSMORE AVE., GLENDALE 91214  
VERDUGOHUUT.COM | \$15/GENERAL | \$10/STUDENTS & SENIORS

