

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST COMMUNITY
OF THE VERDUGO HILLS
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Sunday Services, December 2022

December 4—Wishin' & Hopin': Reimagining Advent

Speaker: Anne Moratto

In the Christian tradition, Advent is a time of "wishing and hoping" (to paraphrase Dusty Springfield). How does the spirit of Advent play out for the rest of us?

December 11—How Rare, How Lovely, This Fellowship

Speaker: Rev. Rick Hoyt-McDaniels

The most important value for a religious community is the community. As a faith community, our fellowship is at the ground of all we receive for ourselves and offer to the larger world. When we begin to move other programs to the center of our shared identity, we begin to lose our unique purpose and strength.

December 18—Grief And Light

Speaker: Marty Barrett

Throughout history, secular and religious celebrations mirrored the seasons. As we approach the winter solstice we recall that Hanukkah, Christmas, Sol Invictus, Kwanzaa, and many other winter celebrations evoke the persistence, practicality, and triumph of light in the darkness. We pay attention to our sorrow and are grateful for those bursts of illumination.

December 24—Christmas Eve Service (4 p.m. Saturday)

Speaker: Ann Kleinsasser

Join us for an early evening UU-style Christmas Eve service with refreshments afterward.

NOTE: There will be no services on the Sundays of December 25 and January 1.

DECEMBER 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
UUV <u>er</u> dugo	28	29	30	1	2	HUUT! ³ 7 P.M.
ADVENT 4 W. ANNE MORATTO 10:30 POTLUCK! NOON	5	6	7	8	9 ASCENCIA FOOD PREP BAILEY FOOD DROPOFF 2-6	10
THE RETURN OF REV. RICK 10:30	12	13	14	15	16 3rd Friday Potluck! Noon	17
GRIEF & LIGHT W. Marty Barrett 10:30	19	20	21 Movie Night! "Spirited" 6:00	22	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 4 P.M.
NO 25 Service Until Jan. 8!	26	27	28	29	30	31

NOTE: THESE ARE PUBLIC EVENTS. PRIVATE RENTALS OR CHURCH-ONLY EVENTS ARE NOT LISTED ON THIS CALENDAR.

ZOOM SERVICE MEETING ROOM: 897 9181 4237 // PASSWORD: 935066



from the Board President

Greetings Everyone,

We know this time of year is about gathering and celebrating. And what do we do besides talking to each other? Eat. Does your family have a traditional yummy dish that must appear? We have it in my family. JoAnn's Potatoes. I remember this dish appearing somewhere in the 1970s. Of course, a can of Campbell's chicken soup is in it. Celery or mushroom soup can be substituted to make it vegetarian. It's certainly not vegan or low-calorie. It got to the point she had to make two of them so we all could have leftovers. She is not making them anymore. We all have taken turns making them, but they are not the same as hers. It is missing her special ingredient: Love.

I grew up celebrating Christmas. As a kid I enjoyed getting presents. Now, an adult, I would rather have time together. I remember one Christmas I surprised the family. I was probably seven. Mom's side of the family liked to talk in code if they didn't want us kids to know the topic. They would spell words. I surprised them while opening a present from Grandma. She says to my mom, "S - O - A - P." I blurted out "soap." Everyone laughing then Grandma says, "We can't do that anymore."

JoAnn's Potato Casserole

- 6 medium white rose potatoes boil in skins. Cool, peel and grate
- 13/4 cups real sour cream
- 11/2 cups grated cheddar cheese
- 1 regular size can of undiluted cream of chicken soup
- ¼ cup chopped green onions, tops, and all
- ½ cube melted butter
- Cornflakes

Mix together. Place in a large casserole dish

Topping: Crush cornflakes, enough to spread over the mixture. Drizzle with ¼-1/2 cup melted butter Bake 350° 1 hour or until bubbly. Better if made the night before and then reheated.

-Paula Hallowell

Social Justice

- Afghan Families: We brought a gift representing UUVerdugo to a baby shower for two of our Afghan
 families. The event was hosted by the La Canada Congregational Church. We met the Pastor, Reverend
 Kyle, who is interested in partnering with us on a new service project. Thanks to Ann and Alan
 Kleinsasser for donating the gift.
- Clothing Drive: A success, thanks to Christine Corrigan, our administrator. who delivered over 20 bags to St James Church for St Vincent de Paul.
- Bailey Food Bank: drops continue with more hearty contributions coming in. Please keep them coming. We need a volunteer each month to drop the donations at Bailey Food Bank in Tujunga. Contact: uucvh@uuverdugo.org
- Preparing, delivering and serving a meal for the Ascencia Homeless Shelter continues to thrive under the crafty hand of Chef Howard. We need volunteers every 2nd Friday to assist with cooking and serving. Contact: hwrichman@yahoo.com
- Covid Precautions @ UUVerdugo: We are still observing CDC and LA County guidelines. Please refer to the postings that are located all over the building if you are not familiar with them.
- First Sunday (Dec. 4) and Third Friday (Dec. 16) Potlucks: Please bring your own tongs if you can find them. No one shall be turned away due to insufficient tongs.

UUTHEVOTE:

 We are still contacting disenfranchised voters and providing them with voting information Our total mailings to date include over 10,000 letters and post cards. We are now working on the GA Special Senate election on December 6, 2022. Thanks to all who have pitched in to write, fold and donate! Contact: Madeline Dow: arpeggiata@yahoo.com.

-Madeline Dow



Mary keeps on rocking in the free world

Outreach & Sunday Services

As we continue our quest to bring more people into the building with a diversity of services and programs, I'm excited to have UUVerdugo rejoin the Crescenta Valley Chamber of Commerce in 2023. I didn't know churches could join chambers of commerce, but I guess they'll take anybody. This is a close-knit community here in the misty mountains above Los Angeles, and I'm eager to let more people know about what we do here. My plan to defoliate large parts of the Verdugo Hills to spell out the words "Respect for the inherent worth and dignity of all people" was shot down. In addition to all the great guest speakers we've had in our services, I'm especially grateful to congregants Anne Moratto and Mary Madill for their talks, and to Linda Hunt for her multiple appearances as podium greeter. I'm looking forward to more congregant-led services in 2023.

You still have a few days to donate to Teens4TeensLA.org's big holiday party for teens transitioning out of foster care. Every teen is given generous and personalized gifts to help them get started, from basic toiletries and bedding to laptops. There's a way to donate both cash and purchase wishlist items on http://www.teens4teensla.org. You can also watch Teens4Teens founder Lorelei Darling talk about the program here: https://youtu.be/nTzoAsUdohE

The Unitarian Universalist Association, our governing body (as much as UUs can be governed, is revising and clarifying some of its mission statements and principles ahead of next year's General Assembly. The following working document is a great primer on what UUs are about: https://www.uua.org/files/2022-10/article2 draft language 102022.pdf

A couple of housekeeping tips: LA County is still a COVID hot zone and we have both older and immune-compromised congregants and guests. Please wear a mask indoors when in close proximity. I don't care if every one of those people in the mosh pit you attended last week was unmasked and feverish; please keep covered and, if asked to take your snacks outside or to let someone else serve you, comply with the grace and elegance for which you are famed.

Marty Barrett

THE FINAL HUUT OF 2022! BRING YOUR FRIENDS AND ENEMIES.

