

UUSM Newsletter BULLETIN October 2018

October Worship Services

Services at 9 am and 11 am

Sunday, October 7: Animal House

The Rev. Greg Ward, preaching; Cassie Winters, Worship Associate

Many religious communities celebrate an annual "Blessing of the Animals" at church, and for good reason. For some of us, pets are the one thing we count on to show us the love we dearly need in life. Is it a tail that loyally wags when you walk in? A head that rises to be touched by your hand? The sound of purring in your lap? Or just another beloved presence that makes you happy? Join us for our Annual Pet Blessing Service. Please bring your pet to church in the safest way possible – so they will feel safe as well as will other animals (and humans) around them. Or bring a toy they like to play with and a photo, so that they can be blessed in the same way they provide a blessing to you.

Sunday, October 14: Babies, Bathwater, and the Belonging That Is Our Birthright

The Rev. Greg Ward, preaching; Abby Arnold, Worship Associate

We are living in an age of disillusion. Some of the fundamental ideals we were taught to accept and revere in our younger days turn out to be unhelpful – even hurtful – when we invoke them to guide us through the complexities of this new age. It is tempting to throw out everything we were told – lock, stock, and barrel – and turn to our own wits and self-reliance to get us through. But sometimes throwing the baby out with the bathwater is a recipe for cynicism, and we are forced to ask ourselves whether it might be better to rebuild what we've left behind.

Sunday, October 14: Heart and Soul Service • 5 pm

Check out the first "Heart and Soul" led by Robin Stillwater, our new Intern Minister! There will be some changes to this contemplative service: it is group-style with an emphasis on slowing down and sitting in our bodies through attention and silence. Join us in taking a breath to start off the week.

Sunday, October 21: Braving Belonging

The Rev. Greg Ward, preaching; Cassie Winters, Worship Associate

Have you been looking for the secret? The holy grail? The promise of perfect love and inner peace? You can have it. But first you have to give up all the gods who have promised to save you. Give up the ancient paths, prophecies, potions, or poses. The boundless love you have been looking for is just a few steps beyond the "High Lonesome." When you know what to look for, you'll never step over it unnoticed again.

Sunday, October 28: Día de Los Muertos

Worship Leaders: Robin Stillwater, Kathleen Hogue, and Margot Page; L. Delaney Hutchinson, Guest Musician

Our multigenerational service observes the Day of the Dead, a Mexican holiday when those who have died are remembered with traditions that support their spiritual journey. We will explore fears of death and the unknown through telling the story of *The Dark*, by Lemony Snicket. The service will include the traditional *ofrenda*, an altar with marigolds, calaveras, and photographs. Please share a remembrance by bringing a photograph of a loved one who has died.

October
Theme:
SANCTUARY

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SPECIAL EVENTS

- Oct. 4 FIA Session on wage theft and ICE
- Oct. 3, 17, 24 Balanced Behaviors with Teri Lucas
- Oct. 7 Artist Bonnie Lambert
- Oct. 10 A Year to Live with Rev. Greg (inaugural event)
- Oct. 14 Right Relations Covenant Workshop
- Oct. 17 FIA and League of Women Voters
- Oct. 20 Conversations and Connections RE workshop
- Oct. 22 D4\$ Pancake Breakfast

For more info on special events – and the latest on our regular activities and interest groups – visit the calendar at www.UUSM.org, or call the office.



Board of Directors High on Development Day

On Sept. 8, our church and board hosted a Board Development Day, engaging with other local UU church leaders and learning more about implementing best practices.



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delightful de Benneville
family weekend.



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**UUSM Newsletter
BULLETIN
October 2018**

Transition to Online Newsletter Begins

You're right. This does not look like our regular Newsletter. The Communications Team is always looking for ways to improve communication with members, friends, allies, and visitors. We're excited to be revitalizing our outdated website and to debut our web-based Newsletter at <http://news.uusm.org/>. UUSM.org and the monthly Newsletter are evolving together with united goals: to uplift the whole purpose of the church, and to help our mission, activities, and outreach opportunities.

Mixed emotions color the decision to transition our monthly Newsletter to a primarily online format. Everyone agreed that our Newsletter Committee produced a fabulous product – an asset to our community reflecting decades of history. But the print, PDF, and website editions of the Newsletter demanded over 70 volunteer hours a month, and core volunteers were burning out. We fought declining readership, but budget restrictions and numerous glitches stood in the way. Frankly, it was disheartening and unsustainable, so we're adapting things.

Be assured that UUSM's investments in digital communications aim to keep members connected to our mission and newcomers welcomed into our community and programs. Our new public-facing, web-based newsletter provides frequent updates and will share information and photos in new ways as we tell our stories. Enhanced accessibility via mobile devices will engage the digital generation, the future of our beloved community.

You're right. Some in our congregation are currently unable to navigate technology or lack access to the internet, so we seek allies of all ages to support them.

If you're a faithful reader of the UUSM Newsletter, you will receive The UUSM Newsletter Bulletin and/or Digest at least through January 1. But keep your eye out for UUSM email, apps, and social media. We'll definitely keep you posted.

– Communications Team Chair Lois Hutchinson