

2019

The Beacon South Valley Unitarian Universalist Society

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January, 2019



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Jan. 6: "Celebrating Life's Epiphanies"

Various Congregants

Jan. 13: "The Spirituality of OWL"

Rev. Bob LaVallee

Jan 20: "Black UU's"

Rev. Bob LaVallee

Jan. 27: "Grief is Good: Living with Our Common Mortality"

Rev. Bob LaVallee

LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

****For urgent issues please call the main office or the Caring Circle (listed further below)**

MINISTER
 Rev. Robert LaVallee
minister@svuus.org
 801-327-2241

SVUUS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Lorri Quigley, President	801-635-8900
Ann Scarborough, Vice Pres	952-994-1790
Judith Mehr, Secretary	801-870-2260
Paul Carlson, Treasurer	801-201-0906
Jan Vanderhooft, Trustee	801-943-3879
Lorelei White, Trustee	801-889-7737
Denna Wright, Trustee	801-274-0756

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

Cindy Martin 801-944-9723
 Email: admin@svuus.org
Office Hours: Tue -Thur 12:00-5:00 pm
Fri 8:00 am-1:00 pm

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

Liz Martin (Director) 801-604-2973
 Email: dre@svuus.org
 Office Hours:
 Sunday: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
 Tuesday: 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
 Other hours by appointment

CARING CIRCLE

Ines Korbanka 801-979-3020
 Email: ikorbanka@yahoo.com

SVUUS Web Site
www.svuus.org

SVUUS News & Community Email Lists

South Valley has two email lists, one for official announcements and the other for communications within the congregation.

If you wish to sign up for either or both of these lists, please visit: www.svuus.org/our-community/online/

To send a message to the list, simply address it to: news.svuus.org

From the Board of Trustees

Message from the Board

We have had a quite eventful 2018. We have lost and are losing three of the hardest working ministers I know. They donated many extra hours for our benefit. We have said farewell to our beloved Minister, Patty Willis and got an interim minister, Bob LaVallee. Mary Lou Prince, Patty's spouse, was replaced by John Bergquist in our music ministry. In both cases we were fortunate to get excellent staff who are carrying on the vision that Patty and Lou started with us. Now, Liz Martin, our Director of Religious Exploration minister (DRE) announced she will be leaving at the end of June to go to seminary and join the formal ministry. We still have lots of work to replace and find our next settled minister and our new DRE.

In the midst of this changing of the guard, South Valley has not only survived, but has met the challenge head on. Many members have stepped up and kept our church missions front and center. South Valley has proven that we are a church beyond our paid ministry. We are a group of generous volunteers who give freely of their time, talents, and treasures. I am so proud of that.

We are now entering our pledging time. These changes, along with predictable upkeep costs of our building, have increased the financial needs of the church. Again, many congregants are stepping up to make pledging easier and a more informed choice. Please, participate fully in our democratic congregational society during this time. With your efforts and pledges, South Valley will grow and strengthen our membership and our mission. I feel lucky to have found a church like this one.

Thank you,

Jan Vanderhooft



Minister's Message

Hello Folks - A few weeks ago South Valley performed one of our happiest rituals: a new member ceremony. It's a wonderful thing to welcome lovely folks into this community (Hi Tina, Amy, Darin, Katie, Ryan, Bryan, Michelle, Ryan [the second] and Brenda! We're so happy that you're here!)

I love the new member ceremony because it takes the form of a covenant, an agreement between the folks who are joining and the folks who are already members. Here's the words we use:

Into this covenant community of memory and promise,
these new members are now enfolded.
May this congregation nurture and challenge them, offering comfort and guidance,
and calling forth the best within them.
May they, in their turn, bring to this institution energy, vision, and commitment,
that it may become ever more fully the community we have hoped for it to be.

And it's also a time of intentionally recommitting ourselves to each other, via our church covenant. In this sense, the new member ritual expands beyond the new members to the entire community. Becoming a member is a statement of intention and purpose. It's a commitment! (A side message to folks who have been coming for more than a year and still haven't joined: I'm genuinely curious about your decision and I'd like to learn more. Call me or send an email. No judgment, I promise. Thanks!)

The act of membership is amazing, with music and flowers and the palpable warmth of community but as I told our new members before the service, the act of Re-membership* is also important. The experience of joining is beautiful and powerful, a happy time focused on our best intentions and highest energy. Beautiful things happen in this congregation. And the truth is that we're a bunch of humans, stumbling along with burdens and distractions, and sometimes we screw things up.

Things getting screwed up is a normal part of all facets of our lives but it's really painful when it happens in our church. We bring our deepest aspirations and tenderest vulnerabilities to this place and when we feel hurt, it really hurts. Sadly, that's part of being in a church community. We make a covenant, we fall out of covenant, and we have to figure out how to get back into covenant.

And this is where re-membership comes in. Or rather, remember-ship. Remember-ship is necessary when the high of new membership fades, and the realization sets in that South Valley is not perfect. When this happens, we need to remember what brought us here, remember the commitment and covenant, and remember the truth that our community is strongest not when everything is perfect, but when we are doing hard things together. Remembership is at the heart of membership.

New members, old members, and non-members: I wish you all a shiny 2019! May your dreams come true.

Warmly,
Rev. Bob LaVallee

**Thank you to my seminary classmate Liz James, who coined the term "remembership."*

Opportunities and Announcements

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The prayer shawl group will hold its next meeting on Thursday, January 24, at 3:00 p.m. in the Senior High Room. Anyone who is interested in knitting or crocheting shawls or afghans to contribute to the Prayer Shawl ministry is welcome to join us. If you are interested and have questions, you can contact me at lorriquigley@msn.com.

Happenings Hub

Every Sunday after service. Visit our new Happenings Hub in the Social Hall after each Sunday Worship Service to find out about all of the goings-on in our community. You will find information and signup sheets for all kinds of activities and volunteer groups, such as Wellspring Wednesday offerings (our community nights), social action opportunities, hikes, committee needs. Contact Susan Eyzaguirre eyzsooz@gmail.com for more information.

January - February Offering Split

No Kid Hungry

In America today, 1 in 6 kids faces hunger. Working with local partners across the country, No Kid Hungry is ending childhood hunger by ensuring that kids get the food they need, like healthy breakfast at school and free meals during the summertime.

No Kid Hungry is a campaign of Share Our Strength, an organization working to end hunger and poverty. Most people are familiar with the name "No Kid Hungry", which is how the campaign appears online and in consumer publications.

Book Group

Book Group will take a break for the holidays.

Meeting will resume on January 21, Monday of the MLK Jr Holiday weekend. The book for review is Bob Woodward's "Fear" about "Trump in the White House".

Monday Hikers Group

Like to hike? Join us for morning hikes, snowshoeing and cross country skiing during the winter in the Wasatch Canyons for easy to moderately paced hikes. Input on where is always welcome. Contact Rosine Oliver at rhodesignsllc@gmail.com or 801-971-2136 to be added to the email list. I will send out information during the weekend before the hike. Text or email me with questions.

FINANCE COMMITTEE SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

The SVUUS Finance Committee is actively seeking new members to assist in the budgeting process. The primary purpose of the SVUUS Finance Committee is to review the monthly financial data provided by the Bookkeeper and Treasurer in a timely manner, and to provide feedback as needed to the SVUUS Board.

Through the Board, the SVUUS community is then able to make input on financial decisions at the annual congregational meeting. A secondary purpose is to advise the SVUUS Board on any budgetary concerns that may be noted, and to provide recommendations for consideration by the SVUUS Board.

Meetings are held monthly (usually on the 2nd Monday night) and generally last about 60 to 90 minutes. These meetings are commonly held on-line, so that all members can see the reports on their computer monitors. During the March-April budget preparation period, additional meetings are called, generally on a biweekly basis.

We will be electing a new Chairperson for the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year, as the current Chair's term of office is expiring June 30 2019.

If you are interested in participating, please contact David Norton (davinort@yahoo.com), or Paul Carlson (polymath66@gmail.com)

Opportunities and Announcements continued

JANUARY 6 WORSHIP SERVICE

On Sunday January 6, we will have a Poetry and Music service. The topic is "Epiphanies, Discoveries, and A-Ha Moments". We invite congregants to participate in this service by bringing a relevant song or poem to share. Please contact Mary Norton (harpertara@yahoo.com) to have your selection included in the Order of Service.

Recruiting New Talent!

The Board of Trustees is seeking to fill some important positions. If you have interest in Communications, Worship, or Young Adults, please contact Ellen Payzant on Leadership, Succession & Development (ewpayzant@gmail.com) or Ann Scarborough (annbob.scarborough@gmail.com). These are active committees with skilled team members, who are in need of your unique talent. This community is a great place to try something new, perhaps something you've never done before. Take a risk and ask for more information! The Happenings Hub in the Social Hall on Sunday mornings is another resource where your questions may be directed.

2018 Christmas Gift to the Church: Project Playground

The Jr. High Youth have made a couple of presentations to the Board of Trustees requesting permission to have a fundraiser for playground improvements. It was determined that this is a very good project that we want to support. The Board approved "Project Playground" as the 2018 Christmas Gift to the Church. Stay tuned for more details!

Monthly Potlucks

The Welcoming and Membership Team will be hosting the potluck after the service on Sunday, January 6th. The theme will be "Rainbow." Team members, please bring healthy, colorful food to share!

Here are the dates for the next 2:

February 3rd hosted by the High School Youth Group

March 3rd hosted by the Ministerial Transition Group and the Library

Chalice Lighters and our Grant Application

Chalice Lighters is a program of the Mountain Desert District of the Unitarian Universalist Association. It was developed to help congregations fund special projects. When you become a member of Chalice Lighters you agree to be contacted three times a year, asking for a donation of \$20 (or more). This is a wonderful way to support other congregations in improving their programs and facilities.

SVUUS has completed a grant application, requesting \$9800 to help us complete our 2017 Project Welcome, which will fund handicapped-accessible entry doors for the front of our church. This improvement will help us create a welcoming facility that will comply with ADA standards,

Our funds raised in 2017-2018 will cover the installation of the ramp and entry doors to the Annex. The installation has been delayed due to the tariffs imposed, which have led to an aluminum shortage. We are waiting for all the materials to be shipped.

If you are not already a Chalice Lighter, please consider joining! Membership forms are available by the Visitors Table and at the Happenings Hub.

Religious Education, Growth and Learning

Sunday Religious Exploration for Children and Youth

SUNDAY RE REGISTRATION TIME!!

We ask that every participant in our Sunday Religious Exploration classes be registered EVERY YEAR to keep our information current. Please fill out the following registration form, and let me know if you have any questions (dre@svuus.org) <https://tinyurl.com/SVUUS-RE2018>

Sunday RE Schedule

1/6/2019

High School (9th-12th graders): Spiritual Practice Sunday
 Junior High (6th-8th graders): Coming of Age - Starting with Us
 Seekers (4th-5th graders): URUU - Merger: U + U = UU!
 Trailblazers (2nd-3rd graders): Holidays and Holy Days - Three Kings Day
 Pathfinders (Kindergarten-1st graders): Holidays and Holy Days - Three Kings Day
 Butterflies (Pre-K): Chalice Children

1/13/2019

High School (9th-12th graders): A Place of Wholeness - Reason
 Junior High (6th-8th graders): Coming of Age - Good and Evil
 Seekers (4th-5th graders): URUU - Intro to "Six Sources of Inspiration"
 Trailblazers (2nd-3rd graders): Moral Tales - Generosity: Give and Ye Shall Receive
 Pathfinders (Kindergarten-1st graders): Creating Home - Our Ancestral Home
 Butterflies (Pre-K): Chalice Children

1/20/2019

High School (9th-12th graders): Attend Worship Upstairs/Bagels with Bob
 Junior High (6th-8th graders): Coming of Age - Rituals of Our Faith
 Seekers (4th-5th graders): URUU - Source One: Personal Experience
 Trailblazers (2nd-3rd graders): Holidays and Holy Days: Yule
 Pathfinders (Kindergarten-1st graders): Holidays and Holy Days: Yule
 Butterflies (Pre-K): Chalice Children

1/27/2019

High School (9th-12th graders): Coffee Shop Sunday
 Junior High (6th-8th graders): Coming of Age - Life, Death, and the Afterlife
 Seekers (4th-5th graders): URUU - Source Two: Prophetic People
 Trailblazers (2nd-3rd graders): Moral Tales - Footprints: Treading Softly on Earth
 Pathfinders (Kindergarten-1st graders): Creating Home - Tango
 Butterflies (Pre-K): Chalice Children

Wellspring Wednesdays

Wellspring Wednesdays

Wellspring Wednesdays returns on January 16th. Join us for soup and company beginning at 6:00 p.m., and class offerings beginning at 6:30 p.m. Child Care is provided for class participants.

Our Whole Lives: Comprehensive Sexuality Course for YOUNG ADULTS (Ages 18-35)

Facilitated by: Trista Emmer, Rev. Bob LaVallee, Sheri Lund, Doreen Kulikowski

Dates: 1/16 - 3/20

Our popular Adult OWL classes return, this time with the curriculum for Young Adults. Our Whole Lives helps participants make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health and behavior while exploring age-specific information in six subject areas: human development, relationships, personal skills, sexual behavior, sexual health, and society and culture. Grounded in a holistic view of sexuality, Our Whole Lives not only provides facts about anatomy and human development, but also helps participants clarify their values, build interpersonal skills, and understand the spiritual, emotional, and social aspects of sexuality. And OWL is always a good time - learning, commiserating, and laughing together! Class size is limited; please see table at Happenings Hub or email DRE@svuus.org to register!

G Suite Tutorial (Gmail, Docs, Drive, Calendar, and More)

Facilitated by: Russ Martin

Dates: 1/16, 1/23

Did you know that SVUUS, as a non-profit, gets to use G Suite (formerly Google Apps for Business) for free! G Suite is an amazing, cloud based, collaborative platform that includes email, word processing, spreadsheets, presentations, data storage, calendaring, and more.

Increased use of this resource would help with the following:

- Easier transition of documents when leaders change
- Realtime collaboration on documents
- No worries about back-ups or data loss
- Universal access to documents from almost any internet-connected computing device

This class is highly recommended for committee chairs and other church leadership to better use this amazing free resource. All interested parties are welcome. Please bring a laptop if you have one. This offering will be repeated, and additional sessions may be added based on demand and progress.

Climate Discussions: What Can We Do about Global Warming?

Facilitated by: Tucker Gurney and Ann Scarborough

Dates: 1/30, 2/20, and 3/20

In January, we will view a clip from the film, *Before the Flood*, followed by a discussion of current events, including the issue of palm oil. After the Paris Climate Agreement was reached in December 2015, our South Valley community agreed to support this accord; we will be discussing how we can take action on a local level. We hope to sponsor an Earth Day Celebration in April... Please join us!

Crystal Bracelet making

Facilitated by: Cindy Martin

Dates: 2/6

Ever wanted to learn how to "sew" a crystal bracelet? Yes, we will be using needles and strong thread. Just in time for a valentine gift to yourself or another! Class is limited to 6 participants. Advanced sign-up required for materials (see table at Happenings Hub or email DRE@svuus.org)

Paganism 101

Facilitated by: Mary Norton

Dates: 2/13 through 3/20

You may have seen some of the pagan songs and readings in our UU hymn book. If these glimpses into neo-paganism have intrigued you, please join me for a more in-depth exploration of this revival of Pre-Christian theology and worship in Europe. We will focus on the major pagan traditions being practiced by descendants of these ancient cultures today, namely Wicca (which is a very 'new' religion which borrowed from several older sources), Celtic Reconstructionist, Norse and Saxon (also called Asatru and Heathen respectively), Hellenic and Eclectic. If you have an interest in any other historical religion, we can discuss in class. This class is mostly for those unfamiliar with the Pagan Path, but practitioners are welcome as I don't claim to know everything about all the paths.

This ministry needs YOU to succeed! If you have a talent or passion you'd be willing to share with our community (for one week or many!), please contact Liz Martin liz.martin@svuus.org or Rev. Bob at bob.lavallee@svuus.org.

Save the Date

February	3	Potluck hosted by the High School Youth Group
March	3	Potluck hosted by the Ministerial Transition Group and the Library
March	16	Big Event

Upcoming Events

January	6	Poetry and Music Service
January	6	Potluck hosted by Welcoming and Membership
January	16	Wellspring Wednesdays Begins
January	16	OWL Classes Begin

South Valley Caring Circle

The members of the Caring Circle provide practical support and/or pastoral care. Please contact the chair of the committee if you need or know of someone who needs our support. To ask for help you may also use the Caring Book by the name tags. The Caring Book is also for joys and concerns; we hope you will share moments from your lives.

CARING CIRCLE

Contact Information

Chair: Ines Korbanka (801) 979-3020 or
ikorbanka@yahoo.com

Sandy Dreis	801-256-0825
Mel Welliver	801-963-8258
Peter Verschoor	801-944-1653