



Volume 39, Issue 12

December, 2019



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**December 1: "Living in the Season of Expectation"**

**Rev. Karen Madrone**

December 1st marks the day that the Ministerial Search packet is complete and ready to be viewed by potential settled ministers. At this service we will explore what it means to wait for the unknown.

**December 8: "A Hopeful Journey"**

**Eddy Carroll**

**December 15: Living in Our Sacred Bodies**

**Rev. Karen Madrone**

In this season of many holidays, there are a variety of ways we can experience joy and wonder through the bodies we live in. Our bodies hold our stories, our truth, and help us be more present each day. All bodies of all shapes, sizes, colors and abilities are welcome.

**Wednesday, December 18 6:00pm: Christmas Blues Vespers service**

**Rev. Karen Madrone**

The holidays are a time when there are expectations of being cheery and happy all the time. But what if this year has been hard? What if there have been losses that are particularly difficult during the holidays? In this service we will hold a place for those who have experienced loss, knowing that all are loved.

**December 22: A Unitarian Christmas story**

**Rev. Karen Madrone**

How does a Unitarian Universalist celebrate Christmas? What does Unitarianism have to do with Christmas anyway? Come to this service and find out! This intergenerational service will have laughter, storytelling and a few surprises.

**Christmas Eve, December 24 6pm: "A Festival of Carols"** is a series of new carol settings that have been composed for the SVUU Christmas Eve service. This piece, written for choir, piano and woodwind quartet, will put a spin on the typical carol service format by incorporating the congregation right into the action. Come enjoy an evening of celebration with the South Valley Singers, and sing along with us.

**December 29: What We Leave Behind: A Year End Ritual**

**Rev. Karen Matrone**

This service led by Rebecca Britt, Acting Director of Religious Exploration, will be an interactive and reflective service dedicated to honoring the end of the year. In the place of a traditional sermon, there will be intention stations.

## LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

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

**MINISTER**  
 Rev. Karen Madrone  
[minister@svuus.org](mailto:minister@svuus.org)  
 801-810-6184

### SVUUS BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Ann Scarborough, President	952-994-1790
Judith Mehr, Secretary	801-870-2260
Phil Quigley, Treasurer	801-201-0906
Jan Vanderhooft, Trustee	801-943-3879
Lorelei White, Co-Vice Pres.	801-889-7737
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Bubble Emerson, Trustee	

### CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

Cindy Martin 801-944-9723  
 Email: [admin@svuus.org](mailto:admin@svuus.org)  
**Office Hours:**  
 Tuesday & Wednesday 12:00–5:00 pm  
 Thursday 1:00–5:00pm  
 Friday 8:00–1:00pm  
 \*Third Tuesday of the month 3:00–6:00pm

### RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

Rebecca Britt (Acting Director) 801-214-8340  
 Email: [dre@svuus.org](mailto:dre@svuus.org)

### CARING CIRCLE

Ines Korbanka 801-979-3020  
 Email: [ikorbanka@yahoo.com](mailto:ikorbanka@yahoo.com)

SVUUS Web Site  
[www.svuus.org](http://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/](http://www.svuus.org/our-community/online/)

To send a message to the list, simply address it to: [community@svuus.org](mailto:community@svuus.org)

## *From the Board of Trustees*

Dear Community,

Ready or not, the holiday season is here upon us. Whatever holidays you and your family observe I am certain that you enjoy your own special traditions. We are a diverse congregation and yet we share a common connectedness.

There are many things going on at South Valley in December. The Ministerial Search Committee is facilitating a "Beyond Categorical Thinking" Workshop on Saturday, December 7 from 9:00am to 12:00pm. I urge you to attend if possible. This is a very important part of the process for our search for a settled minister. Then there is the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's annual tradition of the Guest at Your Table boxes to support human rights programs. Rev Karen is introducing a Blue Christmas Vespers Service on Wednesday, December 18 and South Valley's Christmas Eve Service will be on Wednesday, December 24 at 6:00pm.

I am excited to be part of the group working on our Bylaw's Task Force to review our Bylaws. Our Bylaws are our legal document on how South Valley Unitarian Universalist Society operates. We are considering ways to edit, clarify, and add to our current Bylaws for more clarity and understanding. This process will take place over the next few months. Suggested changes will be brought before the Board of Trustees in early spring and recommended updates will be ready for review by the congregation at our Annual Congregational Meeting in May.

The South Valley Unitarian Universalist Society Board of Trustees meets monthly. Our meetings are open to any member of SVUUS. The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 17 at 6:00pm.

I would like to share one of my favorite poems for this time of year. Even though I am not particular in celebrating Christmas I feel this poem aligns with our values. It is a reminder to me that we need to strive for these things the entire year and not just December.

The Work of Christmas

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
 When the star in the sky is gone,  
 When the kings and princes are home,  
 When the shepherds are back with their flock,  
 The work of Christmas begins:  
 To find the lost,  
 To heal the broken,  
 To feed the hungry,  
 To release the prisoner,  
 To rebuild the nations,  
 To bring peace among others,  
 To make music in the heart.

Howard Thurman

I feel blessed for the opportunity to serve on the Board of Trustees. It's been a pleasure to get to know many congregants better, develop skills and work with our leadership.

In Gratitude,  
 Lorelei White, Co-Vice President  
 SVUUS Board of Trustees

## *From Our Minister*

Dear South Valley community,

As of this writing I have been at South Valley for four months as your second Interim Minister during this time of transition. I have gotten to know many of you, learned about some of South Valley's history, and about who you would like to be in the future. You are an inspiring and resilient congregation and I have every faith that your ministerial search is going to go well. December 1st marks the day that the congregational record will be complete and ready for future settled ministers to read. What an exciting time in the life of this congregation!

This month there will be two extra worship services (in addition to the regular Sunday services). On Wednesday, December 18 at 6pm there will be a Christmas Blues Vespers service. This is a contemplative service especially for those who have experienced grief and loss within the last few years. On Christmas Eve at 6pm there will be a very special music based service with many musical pieces written by South Valley's Music Director, John Bergquist. It will be a beautiful and meaningful service.

With the winter holidays approaching and we begin to be pulled in many directions, I encourage you to be present and mindful whenever you can. Whether you celebrate the miracle of rededicating the Holy Temple in Jerusalem and restoring its menorah (Chanukah), the return of the light on the shortest day of the year (Winter Solstice), rejoice at the birth of Jesus (Christmas), or resonate with the universal message of wonder and joy, I hope you and your family are able to take the time you need to take care of yourself and help others. May this season fill your heart and home with love. As always, if you would like a listening ear, feel free to contact me at [minister@svuus.org](mailto:minister@svuus.org).

Many blessings,  
Rev. Karen



## *November News from the Board*

The SVUUS Board of Trustees meets the third Tuesday of every month at 6 pm in the High School room. These meetings are open and all are welcome. We do recommend, however, that you notify Ann Scarborough, [president@svuus.org](mailto:president@svuus.org), 4 days ahead so that she can email the agenda and reports to you. (We save time and paper this way.)

We opened our November 19th meeting by asking each person to share one hope they have for SVUUS in December. These hopes included patience, a mindset of abundance, a beautiful Christmas service that will unite and inspire us, optimism, cooperation, connectedness and understanding, peaceful transitions in letting go of 2019, forward-looking enthusiasm, moving into fresh and renewed energies, renewed connections, and generous donations!

This month David Norton, the Finance Chair, was our invited guest, and it was a great opportunity for him to update us on the Auction results: \$16,398 (gross, not net) and Project Welcome. We are hoping to hear soon from Chalice Lighters how much grant money we will receive. This grant money is designated for completion of the accessible front entrance doors; this information will help us determine “next steps” with our accessibility projects.

The Board experimented this month with a new method for organizing our agenda, and it worked very nicely. All reports that were mailed in advance and did not require discussion were included in our “Consent Agenda”. These reports were voted on in a block, approving them all at once. This preserved important time for discussion and voting on new policies and for the Settled Minister Compensation that we will provide to the Ministerial Search Committee.

Thanks to many hours of research, discussion, and writing, we have a Contract for our Pianist, Ricklen Nobis. As we renew other staff contracts, this new format will be used consistently. Policies regarding the procedure for paying honorariums to guest speakers and musicians, and how Ministers should use the Samaritan Fund were approved. These will be added to our SVUUS Policy Manual. Access to these policies will be made available on the SVUUS website, but you may also request them from Cindy, the Administrator, or Ann, the Board President.

In community,  
Ann Scarborough, on behalf of the Board of Trustees  
President



## *Opportunities and Announcements*

### *Prayer Shawl Ministry*

The prayer shawl group will hold its next meeting on Thursday, January 23, 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](mailto: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](mailto:eyzsooz@gmail.com) for more information.

### *SVUUS Offering Split Recipient for Nov - Dec 2019: Candy Cane Corner*

In the spirit of serving our wider community, we at South Valley split our Sunday morning offering with a charitable organization that aligns with our values and principles. For November and December we have chosen Candy Cane Corner, a special holiday store that provides an empowering holiday shopping experience for people and families experiencing homelessness in our community. Family members and individuals visit the store with their case manager and select beautiful new gifts for their children and loved ones. Candy Cane Corner is sponsored in partnership between The Road Home and Volunteers of America Utah.

### *Candy Cane Corner Holiday Gifts Drive*

During this year's season of gratitude and giving, join us in stocking the shelves of Candy Cane Corner, a holiday store for families and individuals experiencing homelessness that is sponsored by The Road Home and Volunteers of America Utah. Please bring BRAND NEW, unwrapped toys and clothing for all ages to our donation box located in the church foyer.

Suggested Donation Items are basic needs (underwear, wool socks, winter coats, children's clothing), toys, stockings and stocking stuffers. Don't delay - because Candy Cane Corner will be open only from December 1 through 14, we will be collecting items throughout November and the first week of December.

### *CUUPS News*

On Saturday, January 18<sup>th</sup> CUUPS will be cooking breakfast at the Homeless Youth Resource Center. We need one more volunteer to help us. If you can help contact Kim Lane or Kathleen Luck.

CUUPS will be in charge of the potluck on Sunday February 2<sup>nd</sup>. We plan on having egg and other spring items theme. Look for more information in January. We also would like to have a short ritual after the potluck to celebrate Imbolc. Look for more information on the happenings board or in the January Beacon.

## UUA Annual Program Fund



For many years South Valley and all other Unitarian Universalist congregations have paid membership dues to the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) based on the number of actual members shown on the books. This practice had the unintended consequence of causing some people and families to choose NOT to “join” their congregations as Members, out of the belief that by staying off-the-books, they were saving money for their church.

Due to this and other reasons, the UUA decided in Spring 2019 to move to a new program, called the Annual Program Fund (APF). Under the APF, the UUA asks each congregation to voluntarily contribute 6.75% of its annual operating budget to the APF. Please note this is a voluntary contribution, not an invoice. This flat rate contribution is no longer based on the number of members shown on the congregational records, it is based on a percent of operating expenses.

The UUA website tells us that the New APF program seeks to:

- *Ensure the financial health and growth of our congregations in a time of change. The New APF will base contributions on a percentage of certified expenditures, rather than purely on number of reported members.*
- *Ensure the resources to meet the changing needs of Unitarian Universalists. We have created a program that is responsive to the realities of congregational life, and based on congregational ability to pay.*
- *The New APF will incorporate national as well as district / regional contributions into the formula, emphasizing the fact that “we are all one UUA.”*

We can be proud to say that, through the generosity of our members, friends, and donors, SVUUS has been able to make its full APF contribution for 2019, and the APF contribution will be planned into the upcoming budget proposals each year going forward.

If you have any questions regarding the APF, or the SVUUS Finance Committee, please contact me at [davinort@yahoo.com](mailto:davinort@yahoo.com).

David Norton  
Co-chairperson, SVUUS Finance Committee

## *The Ministerial Search Committee*

### **Update from the Ministerial Search Committee (MSC):**



Please join us for a workshop in the Sanctuary on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 to noon. Coffee, juice and light breakfast foods will be served. While the workshop is running upstairs, child care and age-appropriate activities related to inclusivity will be offered downstairs.

We will have the opportunity to have deep conversation about what and who makes a “good minister” and whether there is room to open up our thoughts to be ever more inclusive. We have a proud history of calling new ministers to serve our congregation – from women when there weren’t many women ministers to the first transgender UU minister. We’ve learned and grown from a white male heterosexual minister who spoke directly about issues of gender, race and privilege. Let’s keep opening our minds to who might nurture us, and we in turn will nurture, next.

Everyone is invited to join your ministerial search committee at this event J This workshop is another opportunity for everyone in our congregation to be part of the process of selecting a new minister. Please sign up asap at the hub downstairs after service or use the link on SVUUS Website, or use this link: <http://bit.ly/svuus-bct>.



## *Religious Education, Growth and Learning*

Hello!

2019 is ending but I feel like our RE year is just getting started! This past month has been full of RE fun including the Butterflies learning about trees, the junior high class having a field trip to a Catholic church, and the Pathfinders class having a mini party to learn about developing relationships. Our teachers are hard at work!

As you can see on the calendar below, December is full RE opportunities! We will have 3 Sundays with traditional RE classes, 2 intergenerational services, and 2 special holiday services! Wow wow! **These present a lot of learning experiences for our children AND volunteer opportunities for you! I will reach out with more details, but if your child has a flair for the dramatic, we may have opportunities for them!** Contact me to find out how you can get involved.

**I am seeking leadership for Adult RE in 2020.** It has become clear that our current model isn't reaching as many people as we would hope. While Adult RE is not within the scope of my position, I am ready to support a lay lead pivot or rework for 2020. The kids shouldn't have all the fun!

Rebecca Britt  
Acting Director of Religious Exploration  
[dre@svuus.org](mailto:dre@svuus.org)

### **RE Schedule**

#### **12/1/19**

High School (9th-12th graders): Modern Faith  
Junior High (6th-8th graders): Our Neighboring Faiths  
Seekers (4th-5th graders): Love Connects Us  
Trailblazers (2nd-3rd graders): Love Will Guide Us  
Pathfinders (Kindergarten-1st graders): Love Surrounds Us  
Butterflies (Pre-K): We Are Many, We Are One

#### **12/8/19\***

High School (9th-12th graders): Modern Faith  
Junior High (6th-8th graders): Our Neighboring Faiths  
Seekers (4th-5th graders): Love Connects Us  
Trailblazers (2nd-3rd graders): Love Will Guide Us  
Pathfinders (Kindergarten-1st graders): Love Surrounds Us  
Butterflies (Pre-K): We Are Many, We Are One

\*Rebecca on vacation

#### **12/15/19**

High School (9th-12th graders): Modern Faith  
Junior High (6th-8th graders): Our Neighboring Faiths  
Seekers (4th-5th graders): Love Connects Us  
Trailblazers (2nd-3rd graders): Love Will Guide Us  
Pathfinders (Kindergarten-1st graders): Love Surrounds Us  
Butterflies (Pre-K): We Are Many, We Are One

#### **12/18/19 (Wednesday)**

Blue Christmas: Intergenerational Service

#### **12/22/19\***

A Very Unitarian Christmas: Intergenerational Service

\*No Karen Conversation with High School class

#### **12/24/19 (Tuesday)**

Christmas Eve Service: Intergenerational Service

**12/29/19 - What We Leave Behind: Intergenerational Service**

Save the Date

March TBD Big Event

Upcoming Events

Dec. 7 Beyond Categorical Thinking Workshop  
 Dec. 8 Religious Transition Group  
 Dec. 8 Monthly Potluck  
 Dec. 18 Wednesday, 6:00pm: Christmas Blues Vespers service  
 Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Service

**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@gmail.com

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