

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF CORPUS CHRISTI
SOUNDS OF THE SEA IS PUBLISHED BY:

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF CORPUS CHRISTI,
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UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF CORPUS CHRISTI,
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SOUNDS OF THE SEA



**NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH OF CORPUS CHRISTI**

DECEMBER 4, 2008 VOLUME 101, No. 146

*Building a welcoming and affirming religious community
To Liberate and Cultivate the Human Spirit*

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE AT 11:00 AM ONE SERVICE ONLY
SUNDAY MORNING 11:00 AM CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND NURSERY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7 ADVENT SERVICE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7 FIRST SUNDAY LUNCHEON

We are having a theme for SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, MEXICAN FOODS.

So, please bring something in that category. Here are a few of many suggestions; such as Tamales, Enchiladas, Guacamole, Chalupas, Chiles Rellanos, or Empanadas. So, hope everyone has recovered from Thanksgiving company, and you can join the church community for a Pot Luck lunch

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14 LA POSADAS INTER-GENERATIONAL SERVICE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21 SEASONS OF LIGHT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21 CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS STORE

To make this event a success, we need donations of small new or like-new items. This is an excellent opportunity to clean out your drawers and closets and recycle things that aren't being used.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 6:00 PM CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28 DECADES

"BELOVED COMMUNITY"

The spiritual community freely gathers to live out a shared ministry. Every human being is sacred and is called to the tasks and joys of love. We do not limit the truth of God (even to the word "God"), but live in openness and belief in human freedom and dignity. We celebrate the gift of life, and join in taking on the sufferings of a fragile world. We are this generation's bearers of an eternal message: That truth must grow, enlarge, and glow in creative freedom. Revelation has not been sealed. It is lived anew in every heart, including your own. And through our transformed hearts, awakened souls and acts of love, emerges, the Beloved Community.

SAND AND FOAM

BELOVED COMMUNITY OF MEMORY AND HOPE,

Once again the holidays are upon us. I don't know about you, but to me they are as unavoidable as a tsunami-there is no ground high enough to escape them. And since seasonal escape is just not an option, I might as well be mindful about the way I participate.

For me, it's a time of many emotions-joy, celebrations, solemnity, but also anxiety, resentment, and some sadness. It's a time when highs and lows are exaggerated. I find it's helpful to be aware of my emotional states, to name them as they pass. It's also helpful to be in a community that is realistic about its expectations of the holiday spirit.

Good time to come to church!

We'll participate in Advent and Christmas Eve with worship services and carols. We'll explore the many metaphors of the seasons of darkness and light. The children will teach us about searching for an Inn, since many of us are seekers of one sort or another.

Let's tell the old stories, and some new ones. Let's scratch our heads and wonder, sing some old songs, and some new ones, and be glad in our hearts that we have a church that accepts us in our whole being at this wonderful and stressful time of the year.

"Let Christmas come, says hymn number 224, its story told, when days are short and winds are cold; let Christmas come, its lovely song, when evening's soon and night is long."

"Let Christmas come, and its great star glow, on a quiet city, parks of snow; let Christmas come, its table gleam, love is born again: the truth of dreams."

LOVE AND WARM THOUGHTS,
PHIL

CONTACTS FOR THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF CORPUS CHRISTI

MINISTER REVEREND PHILIP DOUGLAS IF YOU NEED TO REACH THE MINISTER, THE BEST WAY IS TO CALL 817-456-6404. FRIDAY IS HIS DAY OFF, BUT HE IS ALWAYS AVAILABLE FOR AN EMERGENCY. HE IS GENERALLY IN THE OFFICE AT CHURCH MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY MORNINGS.

CHURCH WEBSITE HTTP://WWW.UUCORPUS.ORG/
CHURCH PHONE 986-8855

DIRECTOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION LAUREN CANTATORE-CAUSEY
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FIRST SUNDAY LUNCHEONS LAUREN CANTATORE-CAUSEY
CONGREGATIONAL LIFE (MEMBERSHIP) JESSICA LATIMER
SOCIAL ACTION COMMUNITY- OUTREACH COLIN SYKES

POETRY REFLECTION

*If there is to be peace in the world,
there must be peace in the nations.
If there is to be peace in the nations,
there must be peace in the cities.
If there is to be peace in the cities,
there must be peace between neighbors.
If there is to be peace between neighbors,
there must be peace in the home.
If there is to be peace in the home,
there must be peace in the heart.*

LAO-TSE

WOMEN'S GROUP



The Women's Group is having a Bake Sale, instead of meeting for dinner in the month of December. So, if you like to bake during this season, get ready, set, get baking. Think cookies, cakes, breads, candies, jellies, on and on, but don't think calories at this time. The bake sale will be December 14, after church. Now, if you don't like to bake, save your pennies, nickels and dollars to buy the goodies. The funds will go into the general operating budget, with some funds going to a charity

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2008, 7:00 PM, FILM SHOWING

Please join AGNES MEIER on Wednesday, December 10, 7:00 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church for the showing of "A NEW FRAMEWORK FOR FOREIGN POLICY, THE GLOBAL MARSHALL PLAN." This was filmed at the DNC in August. This is sponsored by the Network of Spiritual Progressives and Tikkun. For more information, please contact AGNES MEIER at 949-2810.

COFFEE HOUSE IN JANUARY

On Saturday, January 24, 2009 the longest running Coffee House in Corpus Christi, will open the doors of the church, to the 26th year of operation.



It will be a Gala event, so please watch this space for further details. There will be the traditional mix of poetry, Jazz, Folk and Classical music in a candlelight setting. There will be home-baked refreshments, ice and set ups for purchase and you are invited to add the beverage of your choice. KEVIN DATH, JOE PIERCE AND COLIN SYKES are planning to add dance and a short film to the traditional mix for you and your friends to enjoy.

With mention to the invitation of friends, it is because in times past, many of our first time guests at the old Horne Road location returned on Sunday, stayed and became valued members and leaders of our church.

The Coffee House can be, and should be, a friendly outreach opportunity.

— COLIN SYKES 853-7992

FLOWERS FOR SUNDAY



For some of us, the beauty and power of nature are part of our religion. In order to arrange that there is something of nature on the altar table each Sunday, there will be a chart hanging in the kitchen. Please sign up for a Sunday Flowers. To place an announcement in Order of Service of special occasions, email Barbara Briody at

MSBRIODY@GMAIL.COM

FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

DEAR UU CHURCH FRIENDS,

I hope that everyone had a nice Thanksgiving! The holiday season seems to have officially arrived. The days are definitely getting shorter, darker and colder. Even in these times with all of our modern conveniences, it feels like we're bracing for the winter. Perhaps it's some sort of innate survival mechanism that's "hardwired" into our subconscious.

This is also a time where it's traditional to reflect upon the year that's near its completion and to look into the future. When you think about it, we've had quite a year at the U2C3! We've completed a successful Ministerial Search and, looking into 2009, we're planning for the upcoming year.

The Fall Congregational Meeting was held on November 23, with the adoption on the 2009 Budget. The budget is very frugal with regard to expenditures and very conservative with regard to projected income. There will be challenges in the upcoming year, but it is nothing significantly different from challenges that we've met in the past. I'll discuss this more in January's newsletter.

We were not able to adopt the Bylaws revision because we did not meet the necessary quorum of 70 voting members. On an apologetic note, there was confusion after our initial count turned out to be 4 votes short of the required two-thirds quorum. There will be an improved method for determining the quorum in future meetings. We'll need to bring the Bylaws revision up again at a date to be determined.

Again Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and in the words of our would have been Jewish-cowboy-governor, "May the God of your choice bless and bless you."

KIRK NEWPORT,
BOARD PRESIDENT

RECONNECTIONS: YOUTH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

GREETINGS!

As the winter holidays approach, I hope everyone will take time to enjoy the simple pleasures of the season, such as singing carols along with the radio or making a paper snowflake for the window.

Special Events for December:

December 14 will be our Inter-generational Las Posadas service including a pageant and pinata!

On December 21, our Christmas Store will be open immediately following the service. The store gives the kids a chance to do some Christmas shopping for mom, dad, and other favorite people. A gift-wrapping station will also be available. To make this event a success, we need donations of small new or like-new items. This is an excellent opportunity to clean out your drawers and closets and recycle things that aren't being used.

Religious Education Christmas Charity Project:

We are in the process of identifying a local program in which the children will participate. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

Have a peaceful and joyous holiday!

LAUREN CANTATORE-CAUSEY

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

DECEMBER 4 MADISON MARTIN
DECEMBER 7 BOBBI REED
DECEMBER 8 CASEY DATH
DECEMBER 12 GABRIEL RUIZ
DECEMBER 26 COLIN
DECEMBER 27 CHERI RANDALL
DECEMBER 31 FRANK REILLY



DECEMBER 27
DECEMBER 30

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

DEBORAH SUNDERMANN AND SCOTT CHERRY
BOBBI AND MIKE REED

☆☆☆☆ ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAY'S, ANNIVERSARIES ☆☆☆☆

If you have an announcement for the newsletter, or would like your birthday date and an anniversary listed, please email **DEBBIE NEWPORT AT KNDCCTEX@YAHOO.COM**

ADVENT

IN 2003, A **REVEREND HENRY TICKNOR**, FROM THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF THE SHENANDOAH VALLEY, QUOTED FROM JOHN TAYLOR. "If there were no advent," writes JOHN TAYLOR, we would need to invent it. We as human creatures, in spite of all that has happened to us and been done by us, are still hopeful. Something new, something vital, something promising is always coming, and we are always expecting. Thus in Advent, candles are lighted to mark the time of preparation, and with each new light our anticipation grows-as it should. We are, after all, hopeful people.



November 31st marked the first day of Advent. Not a day pagans or Buddhist or Unitarian Universalists usually pay much attention too. But there are ways to celebrate the hope, joy, peace, and love that this time of year inspires. A portion of a poem from UU Worship materials:

In the recognition of these small things before us, may we have the vision to see their challenge is part of that which is larger, which points to the East, the light which illumines our reason for being — to share with one another the good within us, the joy of discovery and delight, the healing of pain that is named, the warmth of helpfulness, the wonder of life around us.

In this season of hope, may we find renewed promise in the days to come. Amen.