



# UUCVH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## Unitarian Universalist Church of the Verdugo Hills

### SUNDAY SERVICES DECEMBER 2024

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4451 Dunsmore Ave.  
La Crescenta, CA 91214  
818.248.3954  
uucvh@uuverdugo.org  
[www.uuverdugo.org](http://www.uuverdugo.org)

Join us on Sunday  
at 10:30 AM

in person or on [ZOOM](#)  
**Meeting ID: 863 6623 2290**  
**and Passcode: 338258**

Our church is a progressive and inclusive community dedicated to respecting the inherent worth and dignity of everyone.

#### UUCVH Board of Trustees

- President: Mary Madill
- Vice President: Bill Poehner
- Secretary: Valerie Weston
- Treasurer: Alan Kleinsasser
- Trustee: Linda Hunt



**12/1/24**

### EXPRESSING GRATITUDE

**ANN KLEINSASSER, LAY LEADER**

With Thanksgiving still fresh in our minds, this service centers on how we experience and express gratitude. Four of our members will share their thoughts followed by discussion as time allows. Be sure to stay for the “first Sunday potluck” after the service.

**12/8/24**

### SPIRITUAL REPORT CARDS - MICHAEL ESELUN, BCC

How many of us live our lives as if there will be a report card at the end of the term? What would constitute an “A” in your book, spiritually speaking? And does it matter? Oncology chaplain and popular guest speaker, Michael Eselun will explore these questions.

**12/15/24**

### CELEBRATE WHAT'S RIGHT WITH THE WORLD RECORDED TED TALK

Dewitt Jones shares his photography and powerful dialogue to inspire viewers to approach their lives with celebration, confidence, and grace. Approaching our day-to-day lives with an attitude of celebration isn't always easy. Do we choose to see possibilities? Celebrating what's right helps us recognize the possibilities and find solutions for many of the challenges before us

**12/22/24**

### A CHRISTMAS CAROL, UU STYLE ANNE MORATTO AND MEMBERS

Charles Dickens was influenced by Unitarianism's progressive theology and emphasis on social reform. Come hear a bit about the man and the message of A Christmas Carol while helping to bring parts of this classic tale of redemption to life. Bring scarves and hats to get into the spirit of a Dickens Christmas.

**12/29/24**

**NO SERVICE - SEE YOU IN 2025!**





# DECEMBER 2024

NOTE: PRIVATE RENTALS ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THIS CALENDAR.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 10:30 service Gratitude Potluck Luncheon after service	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 10:30 service Spiritual Report Cards Worship Comm. after service	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 10:30 service Celebrate What's Right With the World	16	17	18	19	20 12:00 noon Potluck Luncheon	21
22 10:30 service A Christmas Carol Board Meeting after service	23	24	25 Christmas Day Hanukkah begins	26	27	28
29 NO SUNDAY SERVICE TODAY Happy New Year!	30 Newsletter Deadline	31	Sunday Services begin at 10:30 A.M. In Person or on Zoom <a href="#">Click here to join the meeting.</a> Meeting ID: 863 6623 2290 Passcode: 338258			

*Our Sunday services and weekly events are designed to inspire, educate, reassure, and foster thought and action.*

*We welcome you with open arms or join us on ZOOM.*

## BOARD BRIEFS

Valerie Weston, Board Secretary  
11/18/24



- Discussed retaining a Minister for occasional needs. A few requests for rentals have inquired if we have an officiate available. Rev Bailey's name came up because chaplaincy is one of his strengths. Mary has a list of individuals at nearby UUs who have availability.
- Considered raising the Worship Budget to allow for two paid speakers a month and accompaniment for most services. Request will be made to Finance Committee
- GA is in Baltimore this year – do we want to send a representative?

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MARY MADILL

I hope you had a wonderful time feasting together with family and friends, sharing lovely traditions or creating new ones. We had a fabulous Friendsgiving potluck last Monday. The membership committee decorated Friendship Hall with table cloths, centerpieces and tea lights. Phillip commented that this was like going out to a 5-Star restaurant with the quality of the food and the ambiance. Much gratitude to all that contributed to the sharing.

This past month, we gathered back together with Rev Gordon Bailey, former minister, for a Sunday service. Rev Gordon reminded us that the heart of Unitarian Universalism is love with our fellow man, in all of its expressions. It was a timely message for these days when fear and divisiveness is so much amongst us. That was the similar theme in the service where we explored Taoism to better understand how our UU space in the world fits with other traditions. The message was about releasing fear and anxiety. The Tao asks us to tap into the flow of the energy of the world and people around us. That each of us benefit by tapping into the positivity around us. Those are both great messages to bring us into the new year where we reflect on what is behind us and we look to new beginnings.

Looking forward to the month of December and more celebrating with friends and family. We have several fun ones. This Sunday we are sharing what we are grateful for with a panel discussion. Next Sunday, guest speaker, Michael Eslain, talks about Spiritual Report Cards. For the Christmas service Dec 22, we will be utilizing our acting skills with a group reading of "A Christmas Carol" including a sing a long. For Dec 29, we are all taking the day off and giving everyone time off to rest.

I am seeing Sunday services in our church moving forward with a renewed sense of community and identity. Really enjoying the live music back in the church, with Brian and Elizabeth. It is setting a space in the world for us to be in community in peace and love as we sing and explore together.

I wish you all happy holidays for however you choose to celebrate with friends and family. I am so grateful to be part of this beautiful UUCVH community. Thank you!

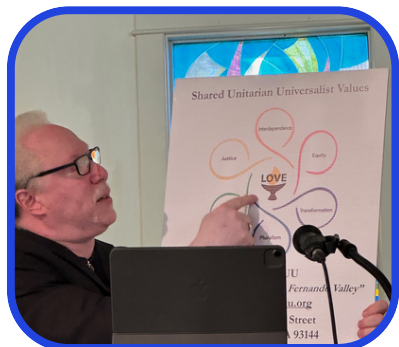
Mary

# HAPPENINGS AND EVENTS

*'A Christmas Carol' is coming  
to UUCVH  
on  
December 22!*



Join the fun - Contact Anne Moratto to help make this Premier production of a Christmas classic a success!



Our former minister, the Rev. Gordon Clay Bailey, returned to speak on November 17. He gave an inspiring sermon on "Love, UU Style".

## WE NEED YOUR IDEAS!

Do you have a favorite topic, hymn, Ted Talk, friend who plays music, or know someone with an interesting life story? Please bring your ideas to the **Sunday Service/Worship committee**.

We encourage everyone to share your thoughts and feedback. Send emails to [UUCVH@UUVerdugo.org](mailto:UUCVH@UUVerdugo.org) or contact Valerie at [valeriew@uuverdugo.org](mailto:valeriew@uuverdugo.org).

**NEXT MEETING: December 8**

**March in the  
Montrose Christmas Parade  
with Ascencia! Saturday, December 7**



Contact Emily Jackowitz ([EJackowitz@AscenciaCA.org](mailto:EJackowitz@AscenciaCA.org)) if you are interested in participating. Help spread the word about this wonderful organization. They serve over 1,200 people experiencing homelessness in LA County every year. Just last year they placed 169 households of individuals and families into a permanent supportive home. We can help them generate awareness and support of their programs at this festive holiday event!



## ASCENCIA "GUEST CHEF"

Help provide a delicious meal for Ascencia Homeless Shelter on **December 30**.

Dinner prep 3:00-4:30 PM at church

Delivery and Dinner Service 6:00-7:00 PM

Please contact the office to volunteer.

## FOOD BANK COLLECTION EVERY SUNDAY



Remember to bring non-perishable food items on Sunday mornings. All contributions are delivered to our Food Bank partners, Making It Happen and Bailey Food Bank, each month.



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