

The Unitarian
Congregation of
Taos
November 2019
Bulletin Board



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| Sun., Nov. 3 | Service: <i>Day of the Dead</i> (<i>Día de los Muertos</i>) Marsha & Chuck Fawns |
| Wed., Nov. 6 | Women's Group, 6 p.m. |
| Sun., Nov. 10 | Sharing Circle: <i>Broken Friendships</i> |
| Sun., Nov. 17 | Service: <i>Not By Bread Alone</i> The Rev. Munro Sickafoose Annual Fall Harvest Feast |
| Wed., Nov. 20 | Men's Group, 4:30 p.m. |
| Sun., Nov. 24 | Sharing Circle: <i>Entitlement</i> |

Services & Circles begin at 11 a.m. at the Masonic Lodge, 124 Camino de Santiago, at the intersection with Gusdorf Road

Thanks Giving
The Rev. Munro Sickafoose

Mainstream history tells us that the "First Thanksgiving" was held in 1621 by the Pilgrims who came over on the Mayflower. The local Native Americans, the Wampanoag, happily joined the colonists in celebrating the harvest of that year. This event has become part of the founding mythology of the United States, and while the truth of it is questionable, the story is taught to schoolchildren across the country.

Here in New Mexico, we know that the "First Thanksgiving" was actually observed near present-day El Paso, Texas, by Spanish explorer Juan de Oñate and his expedition, on April 30, 1598. Yet even earlier, in Florida, a small colony of French Huguenots living near present-day Jacksonville noted a special thanksgiving prayer in June of 1564.

What to make of all this? Does it really matter who was first? Are we in some sort of competition here? One hopes not, although it certainly seems like it. We Americans have an obsession with being the first, and the greatest, and the best—and we seem to bring that obsession even to things like gratitude.

It is good to remember that gratitude cannot be measured, nor stored up like food and water. The gratitude of those first European colonists was theirs in the moment, just as ours must be in these transient days and moments of our lives. What the next days and years would bring were complete unknowns to them, just as what the next days and years will bring to us are unknown. We know the days and years will bring us joy and sorrow, gain and loss, happiness and suffering; but we do not know in what proportions or when.

And so it falls to us to keep expressing our gratitude, giving our thanks, as those who came before us did—and as those who follow us will. This is one of the threads of being human that passes through

the generations. It was here before the Pilgrims and the Spanish and the French, and it will be here as long as there are people to express their thanks for all that life has given.

Sunday, November 3
Día de los Muertos
Marsha & Chuck Fawns



Mixing celebration and mourning, the Dia de Los Muertos service both affirms life and gives us a chance to share our grief. Incorporating many of the traditional aspects, an *ofrenda* (or altar) will be built by those who attend. All are invited to bring photos and mementos to honor those who have died recently and long ago. The Threshold Singers will provide the music.

Sunday, November 17
Not By Bread Alone
The Rev. Munro Sickafoose

We are inextricably tied to the web of life through the seasons. Our lives depend on the results the harvest brings. Food is necessary to feed our bodies, but it is not enough to feed the wholeness of our being. What else do we need?



Fall Harvest Feast Sunday, November 17

The annual Fall Harvest Feast will be held after our November 17th service. Ray Taylor is in charge of food contributions, and Margot Coleman is second in command, helping organize and serve. The Taylors will again prepare a ham and a turkey. They will also bring a sign-up poster on October 20th, where you can sign up for the dish you'd like to bring. It is always an enjoyable time for our members to feast and spend fun time together.

SHARING CIRCLES

November 10, "Broken Friendships"

"Friendship is like a glass ornament, once it is broken, it can rarely be put back together in exactly the same way." —Charles Kingsley

A broken friendship can be quite hard on the heart and result in an aching guilt that can plague you forever. The reasons for a broken friendship might be many, but most often, when people look back at their broken friendships, they regret them. Please join our circle as we share the pain of broken friendships. Have they remained broken or has an attempt at mending them been made? How successful has it been?

November 24, "Entitlement"

Entitlement is something Americans are particularly accustomed to. But it can stunt maturity when it becomes an automatic demand instead of something one feels worthy of. Occasionally, entitlement can become an attribute that makes us take for granted the privileges we are so fortunate to have.

But without a sense of entitlement, we may feel that we're not deserving, which can be just as harmful. Perhaps humility and/or responsibility would temper entitlement. How can we strike a balance between being entitled and being worthy?

UCOT Women's Group, November 6

The UU Women's Group Meets Wednesday, November 6 at 6 p.m. Carol Doughty will facilitate an exploration of Boundaries and how important they are in both personal and spiritual growth. We will meet at the home of Sally Savage. An email with more information on this topic, directions for obtaining a ride, and directions to Sally's home will be sent prior to the November 6th meeting. To be added to or deleted from the email list, contact Carol Doughty at lccdoughty@gmail.com.

UCOT Men's Group, November 20

The Men's Group will meet at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 20th. To receive monthly notices and directions, contact Terry Surguine to be added to the email list: tsurguine@gmail.com.

Music Committee News



Join Martha for singing practice at 10:30 a.m. on the first and third Sundays. All are welcome; attend when you can.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 7 Stephanie Yoder
- 12 Diane Ainsworth Stillers
- 18 Jane Starks

