

The Unitarian
Congregation
of Taos
May 2020
Bulletin Board



Sun., May 3	Service: <i>Love Without Limits</i> Rev. Gary Kowalski
Sun., May 10	Sharing Circle: <i>Wholeness</i>
Thu., May 14	Women's Group, 4 p.m.
Sun., May 17	Service: <i>Down and Out</i> Rev. Munro Sickafoose
Wed., May 20	Men's Group, 4:30 p.m.
Sun., May 24	Sharing Circle: <i>Aging</i>

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

Choosing Faith

The Rev. Munro Sickafoose

Our faith is a faith in humanity. It is the faith that at heart people are essentially good, and given the chance they will do the right thing. Pretty crazy, huh? It flies in the face of much of our experience. It is admittedly a bit paradoxical.

Admiral James Stockdale was the highest ranking U.S. military officer in the Hoa Loa prisoner-of-war camp during the Vietnam War. He was brutally tortured more than 20 times over the eight years he was imprisoned, from 1965 to 1973. During that time, he dedicated himself to helping the other soldiers survive the ordeal. When Jim Collins, author of the book *Good to Great*, asked who didn't make it out of Vietnam, Stockdale replied:

"Oh, that's easy, the optimists. Oh, they were the ones who said, 'We're going to be out by Christmas.' And Christmas would come, and Christmas would go. Then they'd say, 'We're going to be out by Easter.' And Easter would come, and Easter would go. And then Thanksgiving, and then it would be Christmas again. And they died of a broken heart. This is a very important lesson. You must never confuse faith that you will prevail in the end—which you cannot afford to lose—with the discipline to confront the most brutal facts of your current reality, whatever that may be."

Our current reality is one that we have not confronted before. The facts of that reality are just sinking in, and we are called to see them clearly. We do so with science, and our collective wisdom. We are beginning to understand that life will never be the same, and that like Admiral Stockdale, we must help others survive this crisis. We are in this for the long haul.

What will see us through is both faith and the discipline to do the right things no matter what.

We call Unitarian Universalism a chosen faith, and this choice has never been more true, and never more needed, than now.

Sunday, May 3 ***Love Without Limits***

The Rev. Gary Kowalski

"In order to understand the world, one has to turn away from it on occasion," wrote Albert Camus. "In order to serve men and women better, one has to hold them at a distance for a time." This morning, Gary will explore what Camus' classic novel *The Plague* can teach us about preserving our humanity in the age of coronavirus. "Where can one find the solitude necessary to vigor, the deep breath in which the mind collects itself, and courage gauges its strength?" Though a work of fiction, Camus' tale is based on true experiences that may hold some answers.

This service will be held online via Zoom. An invitation will be sent in the weekly email.

Sunday, May 17 ***Down and Out***

The Rev. Munro Sickafoose

These recent days have stripped away many of our illusions, and we long for a return to normalcy. But as James Joyce wrote in *Ulysses*, "Think you're escaping and run into yourself. Longest way round is the shortest way home." Perhaps the journey home takes us through unknown territory, where the compass points in different directions, and home will be an unexpected place.

This service will be held online via Zoom. An invitation will be sent in the weekly email.

SHARING CIRCLES

May 10, Wholeness

We can speak of wholeness in many different ways. Are we as individuals “whole”? What does it mean to be whole? Do we feel that it is important to be whole before we present to others, to our community, to the world? Can we bring our fragmented selves forward? Some believe there is an *Essential Wholeness* that includes body, mind, soul, and spirit. What do you believe? We will share the many facets of wholeness.

May 24, Aging

Technically, people all start aging before they are even born. Every stage of development is part of the process. And many factors play their roles, including genetics and the environment.

By 2030, the number of Americans age 65 and over is projected to reach some 71.5 million people, with nearly 10 million of them 85 and older. However, many seniors today report better health, greater wealth, and higher levels of education than elders in past decades. Though sadly we’ve put more effort into helping folks reach old age than into helping them enjoy it.

Some things to ponder...

How has your journey through aging been? What are some of your fears as you grow older? What are your positives and negatives? What do you feel grateful for? What words of wisdom do you have to offer those who are behind you on this journey?

UCOT Women’s Group, May 14

The Women’s Group decided to meet again over Zoom on the second Thursday in May at 4 p.m. This time, we will focus on hopeful news, as in anecdotes we’ve each become aware of about people doing generous, compassionate things. So pay attention to the good news, near and far, and come share what has been inspiring you.



UCOT Men’s Group, May 20

The Men’s Group will meet at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 20th, via Zoom. To receive a Zoom invitation, contact tsurguine@gmail.com.

Through Rain, Sleet, and Coronavirus, UCOT Girl Scout Madison Taylor Will Deliver Cookies

Madison Taylor has set up a virtual cookie booth with the UU congregation. You can visit it by copying and pasting this link to your browser: shorturl.at/juKL6.

Madison and her mom, Elaine, will deliver cookies in masks and gloves. You can pay for the cookies in advance at Madison’s page on the Girl Scout website. You can also donate and tell them where to take the cookies — e.g., the hospital, firehouse, homeless shelter, food bank, etc.

Madison says, “We have about 84 boxes of cookies that we desperately need to sell.”

Thank you for supporting Madison’s effort.

Music Committee News



Special music scheduled for May 3rd with Julie Greer will be postponed. In this time of social distancing, let’s remember the power of music to heal and uplift mind, body and soul. So go ahead, sing, dance, play music to your heart’s desire. We hope you have heard some of the generous offerings in different genres from many musicians playing together while apart from home. Taos Community Chorus conductor Erik Brunner sent a link to our local Jennifer Perez singing Bellini’s aria *Casta Diva*. Copy and paste this link to your browser: shorturl.at/ciZ02.



- 3 Chuck Doughty
- 4 Marjorie Luckey
- 18 Madison Taylor
- 22 Barbara Martinez
- 25 Rachel Cohen