

The Unitarian
Congregation
of Taos
July 2020
Bulletin Board



Sun., July 5	Service: <i>Calvin, Hobbes, and the Meaning of Life</i> , on Zoom Rev. Gary Kowalski
Thurs., July 9	Women's Group, 4 p.m., on Zoom
Sun., July 12	Sharing Circle: <i>Spiritual Ecology</i> (via email)
Wed., July 15	Men's Group, 4:30 p.m., on Zoom
Sun., July 19	Service: Rev. Munro Sickafoose
Sun., July 26	Sharing Circle: <i>Family</i> , (via email)

Because of COVID-19, the Unitarian Congregation of Taos has suspended services and sharing circles for an indefinite length of time. We will be meeting online via Zoom for abbreviated services.

A Gentle, Angry People
The Rev. Munro Sickafoose

Hymn #170 in *Singing the Living Tradition* (aka the gray hymnal) is "We Are a Gentle, Angry People," and it goes like this: *We are a gentle, angry people, and we are singing, singing for our lives. We are a justice-seeking people, and we are singing, singing for our lives....*

COVID-19 has kept people from singing together in choirs and groups, but it hasn't kept people from raising their voices. And in the streets, people are now demonstrating—and literally fighting—for their lives. Singing is a good thing, but it just can't do the job of making real change. And by real change, I mean legislation, and actual changes to the way things are done, explicitly and implicitly. If we look back at history, change has largely come from social unrest, from people getting fed up with the status quo and taking it to the streets. If you haven't heard this quote from MLK, it bears repeating:

"... in the final analysis, a riot is the language of the unheard. And what is it that America has failed to hear? It has failed to hear that the plight of the Negro poor has worsened over the last few years. It has failed to hear that the promises of freedom and justice have not been met. And it has failed to hear that large segments of white society are more concerned about tranquility and the status quo than about justice, equality, and humanity."

And so in a real sense, our nation's summers of riots are caused by our nation's winters of delay. And as long as America postpones justice, we stand in the position of having these recurrences of violence and riots over and over again.

As a largely white religious denomination, we cannot stand for tranquility and the status quo. Justice can no longer be postponed. Take to the streets if you can, but taking it to the streets is not the only way to support this blessed unrest. We must speak out at city hall and the state house, and force change in the

way power is wielded. We must help protestors with bail money and economic support. First and foremost, we must follow the lead of those most affected by a false tranquility and an evil status quo. Justice, equality, and humanity require nothing less from us.



Sunday, July 5
Calvin, Hobbes, and the Meaning of Life
The Reverend Gary Kowalski

Yes, this sermon is about Bill Watterson's mischievous cartoon character Calvin and his imaginary Tiger friend Hobbes. It's also about the Genevan theologian and English political philosopher whose dark views of human nature colored subsequent social thought for centuries. It's about human nature at its core, if it even has a core. Are we made in the image of the Infinite, or born bad to the bone? With help from author Rutger Bregman, Gary provides some answers.

See the weekly email for the Zoom link.

Sunday, July 19
Topic TBA
The Reverend Munro Sickafoose

It is without regret that I can't announce the title and subject of my July sermon. Things are changing quickly these days, and I feel I need to be able to respond to events in a timely fashion. This may continue for some months. So stay tuned!

See the weekly email for the Zoom link.

SHARING CIRCLES

July 12, *Spiritual Ecology*

We humans inhabit Mother Earth with countless other living beings. The earth is theirs, too. The air and water that humans pollute, and the destruction of the earth's finite resources for our comfort or profit affects all other life on the planet. How we choose to live our lives affects not just other living beings but our children and their descendants. What can we do to ensure that our lifestyle respects the richness and diversity of all living beings and preserves its resources for future generations? What meaningful sacrifices are we willing to make to bring this about? Come join us to share your thoughts.

July 26, *Family*

Families, whether biological or chosen, are what give most people's lives their shape. They produce enormous pain and joy and all the emotions in between for their members. Most of our happiest and most tragic experiences are somehow connected with family. Families are flawed, intense, complex, organic units whose members often fail each other in important ways. But family affection is the glue that holds lives together.

Some things to think about: What was your family like as you were growing up? How has your family shaped you into who you are right now? Reminding ourselves that families are human, to what extent does this smooth the edges of some of the more painful experiences you have known in family? To what extent does this lend grace to experiences painful and joyous that you have known in family?

Music Committee News

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, and play music to your heart's desire.



UCOT Women's Group, July 9

The UU Women's Group will meet via Zoom on Thursday, July 9, at 4 p.m. Our purpose will be to connect and encourage each other. To receive a Zoom invitation, contact Barbara Scott by email: finaleyes@icloud.com

UCOT Men's Group, July 15

The UU Men's Group will meet Wednesday, July 15 at 4:30 p.m., via Zoom. To receive a Zoom invitation, contact tsurguine@gmail.com.

Goodwill Donations for Madison's Girl Scout Fundraiser

Madison Taylor is in a group earning a Girl Scout trip to Mexico next year. As a fundraiser, the girls are gathering donations for Goodwill. For each bin they fill, Goodwill will pay the Girl Scout group. To support their fundraising effort, which will run throughout the summer until about Labor Day, please contact Elaine at 520-332-5419 to pick up donations from your home and transport them to the event in Albuquerque. All donations are much appreciated; however, please do not include anything larger than an adult can carry.

Electronics Needed for Taos Students

Taos students are in dire need of computers, some because they are way behind and need summer school, and some for medical and therapy sessions over the summer. ESL students are also in need of computers for Zoom classes. Taos schools had lent them computers, but are taking them back for the summer. If you have an old tablet or computer gathering dust, please consider donating. For more information, contact taosunitednm@gmail.com or call Marjorie Luckey at (973) 902-6091. Thank you!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 5 Joe Mazza
- 6 Bob Aubrecht
- 7 Munro Sickafoose
- 21 Barbara Scott
- 22 Nancy Schultz
- 28 Chuck Fawns