

The Unitarian
Congregation
of Taos
September 2022
Bulletin Board



Sun., Sep. 4	Service: <i>The Question Box</i> , Rev. Gary Kowalski (in person)
Sun., Sep. 11	Sharing Circle: <i>Be Impeccable With Your Word</i> (in person)
Sun., Sep. 18	Service: <i>A Day of Respect and the Autumnal Equinox</i> , Rev. Jeanne Montclair (in person)
Wed., Sep. 21	Men's Group, 4:30 p.m.
Sun., Sep. 25	Sharing Circle: Open Topic (in person)

The Miracle
Rev. Munro Sickafoose

I have come to an unexpected place these days. When I open my eyes in the morning, I'm astonished and awed. I look around at the bedroom, the nightstand, the sun coming in the window, all of it — and I think of how amazing it is that any of it is here, and that I am seeing and hearing and feeling it. This feeling arises again and again during my days, like a splash of cold water on my face. Pay attention to the miracle, it tells me!

For years I've woken up and taken for granted the incredible fact of my existence and the existence of the world around me. Was I simply acclimated to it, like the weather? Was I jaded and numb? Or had it become so ordinary that it was no longer worth my attention? These days, I think there's nothing ordinary about it. What the hell is this all doing here? Why is it here? Why am I here in the midst of it all? Why are you here? That bird, that butterfly, that mountain, that highway, that Walmart? Is it natural? Unnatural? Did it spring like drop of sweat from God's brow? Or emerge from some primal explosion? There are no answers, only conjecture. You can drive yourself crazy going down that rabbit hole.

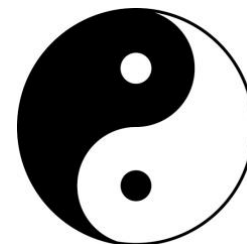
Whatever the reason for it, it's a miracle, a gift, this astonishing fact of Existence. That gift was also given to the person next to us, and the person next to them and so on and so on, all the way to the other side of the world and back. It was given to the animals, the plants, the bugs, the rocks and the seas, the sun and moon and stars. It was given to the numberless galaxies in the infinity of spacetime.

We should never get used to it. We should be awestruck and dumbfounded, wordless and wide-eyed, every waking moment. I admit this would make daily life more complicated. Many would look on us with some suspicion and consider us a little loony. But I think the world needs more carriers of wonder, not more jaded folks. What do you think?

The Question Box
Rev. Gary Kowalski
Sunday, September 4

Once a year, the congregation gets to choose the sermon topic. What does Gary think about polyamory or reincarnation or paganism? Is guilt a useful emotion? Do animals have souls? What are your favorite scriptures and why? How would you define a successful life? Send your sermon suggestions to gary.kowalski@gmail.com one week prior to the service to give Gary time to ponder. The more questions the merrier.

We will meet in person for this Service.



***A Day of Respect and the
Autumnal Equinox***
Rev. Jeanne Montclair
Sunday, September 18

September 18th is National Day of Respect where we are reminded to treat others as we would like to be treated: with equal regard, as one with dignity, with respect for our sovereignty.

September 22 is the Autumnal Equinox, a day when night and day are equal; celebrated for thousands of years to acknowledge the coming of Winter and the need to be mindful of preparations and of opposites within and without, bringing the light of consciousness to our fears of darkness, death, the unknown, the feminine, and the Great Mystery.

We will meet in person for this Service.

SHARING CIRCLES*

Be Impeccable With Your Word

September 11 • In Person

Following up on Rev. Jeanne Montclair's August 7 sermon on "The Four Agreements," in today's Sharing Circle we'll explore the ways we honor the first agreement, "Be Impeccable With Your Word."

"The human mind is like fertile ground, where seeds are continually being planted. The seeds are opinions, ideas, and concepts. You plant a seed, a thought, and it grows. The word is like a seed, and the human mind is so fertile! The only problem is that too often it is fertile for the seeds of fear. Every mind is fertile, but only for those kinds of seeds it is prepared for. What is important is to see which kind of seeds our mind is fertile for, and to prepare it to receive the seeds of love."

— Don Miguel Ruiz,
author of *The Four Agreements*

How we treat our words, and what we choose to listen to, can raise or lower our energy and frequency. What seeds are you planting in your mind and in the minds of others? What seeds do you invite/allow others (including friends, family members, associates, and the news media) to plant in *your* mind? How can we be more mindful about inviting and planting the seeds of love?

Open Topic — Each in Turn

September 25 • In Person

Using a virtual "talking stick," each person can speak in turn, sharing whatever is in their hearts or minds in the moment.

We will meet in person at the Bent Lodge for both Sharing Circles. Masks are optional.

UCOT Men's Group

September 21

The UU Men's Group will meet Wednesday, September 21, at 4:30 p.m. All who are fully vaccinated are invited to meet in person. Those who wish can join by Zoom. Contact [Dennis Scott](#).

Happy Birthday!

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

8 Adela Windsor
17 Linda Aubrecht

Music Committee News

Gael Minton

Our Music Committee is getting back in the business of arranging Special Music for our Sunday services.

Looking ahead, Julie Hawley playing Celtic harp and Becky Reardon, guitar and vocal, will join us on November 20th. Mimi Owensby, Bette, Myerson, Martha Grossman, Dianne Frost, and Gael are contacting other local musicians for upcoming services. The committee members welcome your suggestions of musicians you would like to hear.

Director Nancy Laupheimer has just released the Taos Chamber Music Group's 30th anniversary season series, opening the weekend of October 1st and 2nd at the Harwood Museum of Art's Arthur Bell Auditorium with two concerts titled *Sounds of Shakespeare* and *Song for Taos with Robert Mirabal and ETHEL Quartet*, June 3rd and 4th, 2023. Follow this [Taos Chamber Music Group link](#) for the 2022-2023 Concert calendar dates, musician photos, and tickets.



Flutist/Director Nancy Laupheimer with musicians

Save the Date

Celebration of Life for Mary Rodgers Saturday, September 10, 1:00 p.m.

We are going to have a Celebration of Life ceremony for my Mom (Mary Rodgers) at the Bent Lodge on Saturday, September 10, from 1:30–3:30 p.m. All are welcome!

For those who cannot join us in person, we will livestream the event on YouTube. Follow this link to access the livestream:
<https://youtu.be/-wxSGN39-Kk>.

Below is a link to her obituary. Feel free to post your thoughts, pictures, and memories of her here:

rivera.mykeeper.com/profile/MaryRodgers/

— Emily Gillispie