



# Horizons Newsletter

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH IN IDAHO FALLS

## Our Vision

The Unitarian Universalist Church in Idaho Falls is a vibrant and welcoming church home for everyone. With a tradition of thoughtful searching, we are a beacon of truth, love and justice.

## Our Mission

Honor the individual's right to religious and spiritual freedom  
Minister to each other and the community at large  
Nurture the search for truth and meaning  
Be a loving and intergenerational community welcoming to all beliefs, races, sexual orientations, ethnicities and gender identities  
Improve the quality of life by living our values and working for local and universal justice

## Our Covenant

Love is the spirit of this community and service its law. This is our great covenant: To dwell together in peace, to seek the truth in love, and to help one another.

## December Worship

December 2018

Sunday Services 10:30am

December 2

### "Why Unitarian Universalists Can Celebrate Christmas"

Interim Minister, Rev. Jacqueline Ziegler is speaking.

Come discover the unique religious meaning our 19th century Unitarian and Universalist ancestors gave to the Christmas celebration in America and how that perspective has become integral to today's observation of Christmas. After hearing this reflection you will be able to answer the question your Christian friends ask: "How can you Unitarian Universalists celebrate Christmas when you're not even Christians?" Don't miss this inspiring service, for it could help make your Christmas meaningful in a profoundly new way.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** This is a particularly good service to bring friends to.

December 9

### "Sacred Darkness"

The Rev. Ziegler is speaking. A beautiful song will be performed by our pianist and vocalist Jessica Kuipers.

With the increasing darkness that comes with winter, many people become gloomy and some even become depressed. Few people find anything positive about darkness, let alone find healing comfort in it. Just about everyone looks forward to the time when daylight increases. But there is intrinsic worth inherent in darkness that most of us don't recognize. In my reflection I'll lift up some of those core qualities and benefits. Come and discover darkness's sacredness.

December 16

### "The Manger Story"

This service will be an intergenerational, participatory play led by Rev. Ziegler, DREE Elizabeth Cogliati, and Worship Team member Molly Brinkerhoff.

Join us to help re-enact the story of the Baby Jesus from the point of view of the animals and shepherds in the manger. A different perspective on the traditional Christmas story. Everyone will be invited to participate in our play.

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**Minister**  
Rev. Jackie Ziegler

**Director of Religious  
Education and  
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Elizabeth Cogliati

**Office Administrator**  
Vic Allen

**Executive Board**  
Daniel Schwen  
Molly Brinkerhoff  
Cindy Logan  
Josh Cogliati  
Laura Warner  
Steve Wike  
Lisa Christenson

December 21

## “A Contemporary, Contemplative, Winter Solstice Celebration”

Rev. Jacqueline Ziegler along with UUCIF members Vic Allen, Molly Brinkerhoff, Victoria McDonald and Kerry Shirts offer this service beginning at 7pm..

This beautiful service will be held at the church. It offers a more contemporary perspective on the Winter Solstice. There will be readings, drumming, moments of silence, songs, a meditation and a candle-lighting ritual.

Childcare will be available. Please let Elizabeth Cogliati, our Director of Religious Education and Experience, know you'd like to use the childcare service that is being offered. Contact her at DREE.UUCIF@gmail.com. **Parents, please note that this is a longer service.** Older children who are able to sit quietly are invited to attend and participate.

Please bring a drum **or** anything that can be used as a drum (an oatmeal box, coffee can, etc.). Also, bring a treat to share for the social time following the service. This service often becomes people's favorite and most meaningful holiday celebration. Seats fill up quickly so plan to arrive early!

December 23

## “Re imagining the Christmas Story: A Metanoia Moment”

Take a look at the traditional story of the birth of Jesus and the Roman empire and look at it with a new perspective. Could it have been a call for Transformation?

Come explore some new ideas with Annette Lovell.

December 23

## “A Christmas Eve & Candlelight Service”

This service is offered through the unique perspective that Unitarian Universalism brings to this Christian holiday celebration. Rev. Jacqueline Ziegler with other members will present a service designed to delight the hearts of the young and old. It will feature sacred and secular readings, special Christmas stories, special Christmas music and lots of carols to sing. We'll end this joyous service with a special candle-lighting ceremony.

At this time of year, many people who ordinarily do not attend church want to attend a Christmas service where they could be theologically and/or philosophically comfortable. They often want to relive in some small way the joys of their childhood Christmas Eve services. I encourage you to do your friends a favor and invite them to attend our Christmas Eve service. Inviting them might make their Christmas all the more meaningful and memorable. Also, they might discover that they're actually Unitarian Universalists and didn't know it. Don't be shy; invite them to the service. The worst scenario is they say “no thank you,” but it's also possible they will say “thanks for asking me to come with you.”

December 30

## “Burning Bowl Ceremony”

It's the time of year to assess our life, our current paths and our companions. Are we in a good place? Do we need to shed ideas, habits and maybe toxic people so that we can move into the new year freer and ready to accept new and positive changes in our lives. Encourage friends to join you for this annual service lead by Worship Chair Annette Lovell



**“If you have not attended services lately or in a long time, I invite you to come back.”**

## **So This Minister Walks into a Congregation and . . . Interim and Other Ministry Topics**

Greetings good people.

### **Part I**

During this holiday season time UUCIF will be a place where members and friends will gather to create and share a joyful and loving spiritual holiday season. Even with all of this, sadly the church's celebration of the season will be less joyful than it could be. This is because of the absence of some beloved members and friends.

If you have not attended services lately or in a long time, I invite you to come back. Though UUCIF is already a vibrant community, your friends want you to be a part of its vitality. The truth is even though you may not need the church, Unitarian Universalism and UUCIF needs you more than ever to help create a world that respects the inherent rights and dignity of every person as well as every nonhuman life form. So I invite you to come back. You'll be gifting us with your presence. And it will be a gift unlike any gift you have ever given before. Hope to see you in church!

### **Part II**

For those of you who are going to be giving holiday gifts to children, I want to lift up some insights gleaned from the research of the authors of the book, *Unplug the Christmas Machine* about what makes the holiday season truly joyful for children. Below is a list of the four things the authors' research showed children wanted and needed for the holidays; it is excerpted from page 55 of the book:

“While most children are quick to tell their parents that what they want for Christmas are DVD games, . . . dolls . . . toys, and makeup kits, they have more fundamental needs than this. From talking with children, parents and child specialists, we've learned that in addition to **a few well-chosen gifts**, children really want and need four basic things for Christmas:

1. Relaxed and loving time with the family
2. Realistic expectations about gifts
3. An evenly paced holiday season
4. Strong family traditions.

These four unspoken needs play the determining role in whether or not children have a good Christmas.”

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**“There is nothing I can give you, which you have not got; but there is much, very much that, while I cannot give it, you can take.”**

### Part III

I invite you to consider inviting a friend, relative, or acquaintance to our services, particularly our December services, as a way of introducing them to this wonderful liberal religious community. During the holiday season there are people who would be delighted to attend if they only knew about UUCIF! Studies consistently show that word-of-mouth and personal invitations are one of the top ways people find out about us and attend for the first time. So, talk it up among your friends, on Facebook, etc. If you want Unitarian Universalism and your church to grow, to offer its UNCOMMON religious and spiritual gifts to those living in the Bonneville County area, invite and bring your friends with you on Sunday mornings! I encourage you to start thinking about whom you'll invite to our December and holiday services. I guarantee they'll find their morning with us spiritually rewarding.

### Part IV

I hope to see all of you at one or all of our December services, as well as our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. However, since I know that won't be possible, I offer one of my favorite holiday aspirations, *a 16th Century Christmas Wish*:

**"There is nothing I can give you, which you have not got; but there is much, very much that, while I cannot give it, you can take. No heaven can come to us unless our hearts find rest in it today. No peace lies in the future which is not hidden in this present little instant. The gloom of the world is but a shadow; behind it, yet within our reach, is joy. There is radiance and glory in the darkness, could we but see; and to see we have only to look . . .**

**Life is a generous giver, but we, judging its gifts by their coverings, cast them away as ugly, or heavy, or hard. Remove the covering and you will find beneath it a living splendor woven of love, by wisdom, with power. Welcome it, grasp it and you touch the Angel's hand that brings it to you. Everything you call a trial, a sorrow, or a duty, believe me, that Angel's hand is there; the gift is there and the wonder of an over-shadowing presence. Our joys, too; be not content with them as joys, they too conceal divine gifts.**

**Life is so full of meaning and of purpose, so full of beauty beneath its covering, that you will find that earth but cloaks your heaven. Courage then, to claim it, that is all. The courage you have, and the knowledge that we are pilgrims together, wending through unknown countries, home.**

**And so, at this Christmas time, I greet you; not quite as the world sends greetings, but with profound esteem, and with the prayer that for you, now and forever, the day breaks and the shadows flee away."**

**~ A Christmas letter From Fra Giovanni to a Countess, 1513**

Good people, the holiday season is one of joys and frustrations, celebrations and loneliness, the city's beauty and poverty, and nature's gloriousness and piercing harshness. Amidst it all, I hope you will find moments of stillness and renewal resting upon you and granting you their healing grace.

With love to all of you and your loved ones,  
Rev. Jackie



# Around UUCIF

## Still Wanted: Drums and Other Objects To Use As Drums

I am offering Contemporary Contemplative Winter Solstice service on Friday, December 21 at the church and it involves a lot of drumming. This special service will be open to the public and often the general public doesn't bring a drum and thus they aren't able to participate in the drumming as they might have liked to. In order to increase the possibility that everyone will have a drum to play on, I am still asking UUCIF members and friends to save their 1 and 2 pound coffee cans and lids, round Quaker Oats Oatmeal boxes and lids, and anything else that can be used as a drum. When you have some saved, please put them in a bag and give them to me after a service or drop them off at the office. Thanks. ~ Rev. Jackie

**DREE Office Hours**  
Thursday: 8:30am—  
11am

**Office Administrator Hours**

Mon. 2:30p – 5:30p  
Wed. 2:30 - 5:30pm\_  
Thu. 2:30p – 5:30p

## Jim Francis Talk Fills Sanctuary

Idaho Falls City Council member and local historian Jim Francis filled the sanctuary Nov. 7 with his post-midterm election talk: "Hamilton and Jefferson: The Election of 1800."



Jim spoke about the issues and conflicts surrounding America's early elections and how some things had changed and some things had not.

Among those in the audience were a large number of visitors to UUCIF. Following Jim's talk there were a number of people asking questions. Both members and visitors spoke highly of Jim's presentation and the idea of a post election "decompression" gathering.

A brief reception followed the lecture.

## About That Garden. . . .

Yes, it's nearly winter but a gardener's work is never done. If you haven't already, next time you are at the church check out our Peace Garden area. Advantage Tree Care came and removed some shrubs and trimmed trees late in October. Our Peace Garden now has a much more open (and safe) feel and appearance. Many thanks to Josh and Elizabeth Cogliati who footed the bill for that work.

Maryanne Bithell and Vic Allen are asking for any yard signs you are looking to be rid of. The signs will be re-purposed as "collars" for some new Peace Garden plantings next spring. After being painted so they don't stick out they will serve to hold down the grass around some of the new plantings. After the new plants are established the "collars" will be removed and disposed of. If you have any signs you would like re-purposed you can drop them off at the office or contact Vic or Mary.



“On Monday, Dec. 10th, 100-250 faith leaders of different denominations will lead a solemn walk to the border in San Diego to offer a ceremonial blessing to migrants on the other side of the border wall.”

## “WHAT IS A CHURCH?” Attributed to Rev. Richard Gilbert

“If a church is just a minister, then it is only another preaching station.  
If a church is just a school of religion, then it is only another educational agency.  
If a church is just a series of potluck suppers and bazaars, it is only a cozy group of the self-satisfied.  
If a church is just an institution whose budget is adequately supported, then it is only another piece of social lumber (tax-free at that.)  
If a church is just a social action agency, then it is only an imitation of more effective secular organizations.

A church which includes all of these functions, but fails to be more can make little legitimate claim to being a viable religious society. Primarily, a church is the quality of the interaction of all its friends and members, an interaction which cuts through every aspect, every fragment of program and activity within the church, and thus produces a sense of community. Out of this arises a consensus which enriches and sustains.”

## A Note From the Boise UU Fellowship

I want to make you aware of what we at the Boise UU Fellowship are planning in response to the call to stand with border communities and with those seeking sanctuary.

Jim Bigelow  
Chair of the Boise UU Fellowship Social Justice Council

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From Reverend Sara LaWall,

“I know the migrant caravan and border issues have been weighing heavy on our hearts. Below is information about a multifaith effort to convene in San Diego on December 10, led by the American Friends Service Committee and other faith groups. I am making plans to attend. While they are targeting faith leaders, many will choose to participate. I would be happy to have a small BUUF/Idaho delegation of lay leaders.”

The American Friends Service Committee calls for action at the Boarder and an echo action here in our communities.

On Monday, Dec. 10th, 100-250 faith leaders of different denominations will lead a solemn walk to the border in San Diego to offer a ceremonial blessing to migrants on the other side of the border wall. The organizers are still determining details, but will be coordinating a direct action at the conclusion. Please contact Reverend Sara ([minister@boiseuu.org](mailto:minister@boiseuu.org)) for more information. Some funds will be available to support people traveling to San Diego.

The walk will open a week of action to demonstrate the moral authority of those who believe border communities should be de-militarized, and migrants welcomed when seeking refuge. Please contact Sue Philley ([suephilley@gmail.com](mailto:suephilley@gmail.com)) at for more information about Boise actions in support of the action at the boarder.



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## UUCIF, You, and KISU

KISU – FM is our local “ear to the world” and is a popular source for news, music, and information to many in the UUCIF congregation. So it should come as no surprise that members of our congregation are big supporters of KISU, writing a check (or checks) to ensure KISU FM stays on the air. But did you know you can double the impact of those dollars? Simply note with your check that you would like your donation credited to UUCIF’s account. You get the tax deduction and the satisfaction of supporting a worthy cause, UUCIF gets on air recognition and KISU stays on the air. What could be better?

## Become A Chalice Lighter

Being one of the more than 2,000 Unitarian Universalists who are PNWD Chalice Lighters brings you the joy of watching your modest contribution multiply to a grant of typically \$17,000 to support the growth of our liberal religion in the Pacific Northwest. Furthermore, just by being a Chalice Lighter, you will help your congregation qualify for a Chalice Lighter grant. The more of us who take the Chalice Lighter pledge, the more the program will have to offer to growing congregations.

The Chalice Lighter Program assists the growth of new and existing Unitarian Universalist member congregations in the Pacific Northwest with grants to provide vital capabilities and infrastructure. Grants are funded exclusively through contributions from Unitarian Universalists who participate as Chalice Lighters. The volunteer Chalice Lighter Coordinator manages the program on behalf of the district, reporting to the Pacific Northwest District (PNWD) board of directors. Regional staff attend to database and website management and to donor contributions.

Chalice Lighter grants are intended to help congregations grow by:

- securing, improving or furnishing a building
- reaching out to the community to attract new members
- initiating a new congregation
- funding any other creative program to facilitate growth

Grants are not awarded for the purpose of covering normal operating expenses. Groups planning to initiate a new congregation are expected to meet with the Pacific Western Regional Lead before applying for a grant.

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