



Worship

OIF WORSHIP SERVICES DECEMBER 2021

DECEMBER 5- 11:00 "Season of Miracles and Wonder"- Marilyn Smith, facilitator
Service will be in person with masks and social distancing.

DECEMBER 12- 11:00 a.m. Rev. Steve Torrence- guest minister from Metropolitan Community Church, our neighbor congregation on Petronia St. will be our guest speaker. Service will be in person with masks and social distancing.

DECEMBER 19- 10:45 a.m. Rev. Doug Slagle- guest minister
We will be sharing this holiday service from the Gathering at Northern Hills in Cincinnati where Rev. Doug Slagle will be speaking. We will be at One Island Family in person and viewing their service via Zoom into our sanctuary.

NOTE: THIS SERVICE WILL BEGIN AT 10:45- Please don't be late!!

DECEMBER 26- "Celebrating the Season" Nancy 3. Hoffman & Marilyn Smith
Enjoy beautiful holiday music and share our Unitarian Universalists' contributions to traditions of the season.

You Are the Holiday Miracle By [Gwen Matthews](#)

"As December opens up before us, we welcome in the gift of reflection. We turn toward our holiday celebrations and search for common threads of meaning.

We begin with Yule, the winter solstice, and we are invited to explore duality, cycles, and seasons, and to witness the Holly King being overcome by the Oak King. Yule reminds us that we all partake in the miracle of renewal.

Hanukkah, the festival of lights, commemorates a time of miracles when the faith of the Jewish people sustained them to reclaim their holy temple and keep the light of the menorah burning for eight days.

Christmas, the celebration of Jesus' humble birth in a manger, offers us to revisit the miracle of birth and the desire to find saviors to heal the scars of humanity.

Here, in our church, you are just as much a holiday miracle as the turning of the earth, as persistence and dedication to a faith, as the creation of each new life. We see the love you give to others, the space you create to hold one another's joys and sorrows, and the generosity and spirit you entrust to this community.

You are the holiday miracle. This community is one of miracle-makers."



News & Notes

President's Note: Here at One Island Family we join in the spirit of celebration during this season of holidays around the world. Remembering Joy Brown Taylor's engaging message to us during her Zoom program in December a year ago: "Did you know that December, a month that encompasses the Christian and Jewish celebrations of Christmas and Hanukkah, also includes spiritually significant days for Muslims, Buddhists, Pagans and Zoroastrians?"

Few months present as many multicultural celebrations as December. From Christmas to Omisoka, the last month of the year is a 'world of holidays'. Let's take a look at some of December's holidays around the world:

Hanukkah (Jewish) Hanukkah, or Chanukah, is an eight-day Jewish celebration that commemorates the re-dedication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem following the Maccabean Revolt. Those who took part in the re-dedication witnessed what they believed to be a miracle!

Christmas (Christian) Christmas is observed as the Christian-based Advent of the Birth of Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ. It has evolved into quite a different celebration, however. While Americans celebrate with Christmas trees, visits from Santa Claus, and dreams of snowy landscapes, Christmas falls during Australia's summer, where it is popular to go camping or to the beach over the holiday. Some Australians decorate a "Christmas Bush," a native Australian tree with small green leaves and flowers that turn red during the summer.

Kwanzaa (African American) Kwanzaa was created by Dr. Maulana Karenga in 1966 after the Watts riots in Los Angeles. He founded US, a cultural organization, and started to research African "first fruit" (harvest) celebrations. From there, he combined aspects of several different harvest celebrations to form the basis of Kwanzaa. Each family celebrates Kwanzaa in its own way, but celebrations often include songs and dances, African drums, storytelling, poetry reading, and a large traditional meal.

Ōmisoka (Japanese) New Year's Eve, is considered the second-most important day in Japanese tradition as it is the final day of the old year and the eve of New Year's Day, the most important day of the year. Families gather on Ōmisoka for one last time in the old year to have a bowl of toshikoshi-soba or toshikoshi-udon, a tradition based on eating the long noodles to cross over from one year to the next. At midnight, many visit shrines or temples for Hatsumōde. Shinto shrines prepare amazake (a traditional Japanese drink made of fermented rice) to pass out to crowds; and most Buddhist temples have large cast bells that are struck once for each of the 108 earthly desires believed to cause human suffering. "

Wishing all the blessings of the holiday season to our One Island Family members and friends! Marilyn Smith

DECEMBER 2021 NEWS:

December 1 at 5:00 p.m. Key West World AIDS Day Service will take place at the foot of White Street and the Edward B. Knight Pier. The service begins with a candlelight memorial march from Key West City Hall down White Street to the memorial. Marchers will assemble at 4:30 p.m. (*Key West Weekly*)

December 4 at 7:00 p.m. Key West Holiday Parade starting at Truman Ave & White Street to Duval. (Always a local favorite to open the holiday season!)

December 18- 3:00- 4:00 p.m. ONE ISLAND FAMILY Adopt-a- Highway gathering at Baby's Coffee as our 2021 community service project to clean up our adopted stretch of highway (MM14-16). See detail from Dave Arnold, coordinator.

December 20 at 12 noon- ONE ISLAND FAMILY board meeting at 801 Georgia.

Agenda will include planning for 2022 budget, pledge campaign, election of new board, and congregational meeting on Feb.6. All are welcome to attend.

OTHER ONE ISLAND FAMILY NEWS: CFFK Unsung Hero

We are pleased to announce that **KERI O'BRIEN is our One Island Family selection for Community Foundation of the Florida Keys Unsung Hero !**

Keri O'Brien has served as Vice President of our board for 2 years, always preparing in advance and contributing thoughtful proposals at our meetings. She has volunteered for special projects such as spraying the weeds around our sidewalks with eco-safe products. She also initiated a special collection when our Director of Religious Education moved out of the area and our members could not meet in person due to the pandemic.

Keri's contribution to our congregation will be celebrated with other local dedicated unsung volunteers at a luncheon on Friday, Feb. 4, 2022 at the Key West Marriott Beachside Hotel. If you are able to attend the luncheon, we are looking for members to fill a table. Look for our sign-up sheet after Sunday services in January.

"All Is Calm"

The Western Front, Christmas, 1914. Out of the violence a silence, then a song. A German soldier steps into No Man's Land singing "Stille Nacht." Thus begins an extraordinary night of camaraderie, music, peace. A remarkable true story, told in the words and songs of the men who lived it.

This special holiday production at the Waterfront Theater stars our own JT Thompson and features our own Nancy 3 Hoffman as Music Director! Dates: Dec. 8-25

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Monthly Calendar: <http://www.oneislandfamily.org/calendar>