



Worship

DECEMBER SERVICES

December 4-

"Unitarian Universalist Advent Calendar"

Marilyn Smith & Nancy 3. Hoffman.

As with traditional advent calendars, this one created by Rev. Ralph Yeager Roberts offers one image for each day of December to count down the days to Christmas Eve. But this one may surprise and delight you with its stories of Unitarian Universalists whose creations are celebrated during winter holidays by people everywhere. Christmas Carols will enhance the festive atmosphere of this service!

December 11-

"Inspiration from a Nordic December Holiday"

Rev. Doug Slagle

Sweden, Norway, Finland and parts of Denmark celebrate a little known Holiday festival that reminds us of symbols and values consistent with any December celebration - be it Passover, Christmas, Kwanza or the New Year.

December 18-

"We Welcome Queer Keys!"

Chris McNulty, Board Co-Chair

Queer Keys is an LGBTQ+ community organization based in Key West, Florida. Our mission is to support, educate, empower, and celebrate the queer community in the Florida Keys. The Queer Keys Youth Program is a weekly meet-up for LGBTQIA+ youth ages 12-18

December 25-

"Jesus of Nazareth Reconsidered"

Rev. Bob Murphy

Rev. Bob returns to offer some Christmas Day comments! And we'll have some traditional songs for Christmas as well!



News & Notes

ONE ISLAND FAMILY DECEMBER 2022 PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Many UU congregations have beloved holiday traditions. During the month of December we'll be sharing a few of ours at One Island Family. The inclusive nature of Unitarian Universalism and its acceptance of each person's spiritual path ensures that there will never be a single sanctioned way of celebrating Christmas. Nor should there be. But we, as members of this UU community can find meaningful ways to celebrate this holiday that corresponds to our shared beliefs.

During this time of year, sacred traditions around the world celebrate the coming out of darkness into light. December 21, the winter solstice, is recognized as the shortest time of daylight and longest night of the year. In the early days of Christianity many of the pagan winter solstice songs were Christianized. Later those were brought over to North America by the colonists. With the arrival of winter's low dark sky, communities around the world look to the miracle of light as a sign of rebirth and a source of hope. We celebrate the promise of new life and recommit ourselves to the protection of everyone's right to his or her own radiant humanity.

Around the time of the winter solstice, Jewish tradition celebrates Chanukah, which 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. So this year on the evening of December 18, this festival will begin with nightly menorah lighting, preparing special recipes and enjoying dreidel games and other traditions.

Diwali "the festival of lights," is one of the most important festivals for Hindus everywhere. This year it was celebrated on October 24th. It marks the beginning of the Hindu New Year and symbolizes a renewal of life.

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." In the words of Sophia Lyons Fahs "Each night a child is born is a holy night"

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. (UUA Worship Web)

To all members and friends of One Island Family- Wishing you a joyous holiday season and many blessing in the New Year 2023!

(From Marilyn Smith & all the 2022 One Island Family board)

KEY WEST HOLIDAY EVENTS:

Thursday, December 1st at 4:30 "World AIDS Day" Procession from the steps of City Hall, 1300 White Street, to the AIDS Memorial and Edward B. Knight Pier for a community memorial.

Saturday, December 3 at 7 p.m. "Key West Hometown Holiday Parade" Favorite local event for parade watchers from Bayview Park, down Truman Ave. along Duval St. to Eaton St.

One Island Family News:

Sunday, December 4- "Decorating Day"- following our Sunday service, we'll be asking for helping hands to decorate our building for the holiday season. All are welcome!

Wednesday, December 14 at 12:30 UU's WHO LUNCH at Oasis Mediterranean Cuisine, 1019 White St. Key West. Let's get together! (Marilyn Smith)

Tuesday, December 20 at 1:00- One Island Family Board Meeting. Agenda will include updates on our annual pledge drive, drafting the budget for 2023, preparing for the Congregational Meeting on Feb. 5, 2023, and other important New Year planning.

LOOKING FOR INTERESTED MEMBERS TO REVIEW OUR ONE ISLAND FAMILY DOCUMENTS!

I promise a couple of hours maximum, including a lunch break!, at a mutually convenient date in December. We will look over the ByLaws, Policies and Procedures of our Congregation and suggest any changes to be voted by the Congregation at our Annual Meeting, FEBRUARY 5, 2023.

PLEASE CONTACT: Joy Taylor jbt22ster@gmail.com 305-587-7833

"Our LGBTQIA+ Siblings are Sacred, Whole and Divine"

From UUA President Rev, Susan Frederick- Gray

Boston, Mass. (November 21, 2022) - On Saturday, November 19th, a man shot and killed 5 people inside Club Q in Colorado Springs, Colorado, a nightclub that serves the LGBTQIA+ community in that city. 25 people were also injured. The attack only ended because patrons bravely confronted him. Below is a statement from Rev. Dr. Susan Frederick-Gray, President of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), regarding this event and violence directed towards the LGBTQIA+ community:

"This is absolutely devastating news from Colorado Springs. I am sending love and care to all the staff and community of Club Q, and to all of those present, all of the victims and their loved ones. This is infuriating and heartbreaking – especially as it occurred on Transgender Day of Remembrance.

So many woke up yesterday, with our hearts already marking Transgender Day of Remembrance, remembering the lives of our transgender and non-binary siblings taken from us too soon through

violence, only to learn the news of the mass shooting at Club Q. I know this act of violence impacts so many personally.

Acts of violence against trans people and LGBTQIA+ people are not unrelated to the policy and rhetorical violence that leaders use to target LGBTQIA+ people every day across this country. Policy violence like the anti-trans laws in Alabama, Texas and Ohio incites interpersonal and public acts of violence. This must end.

Our LGBTQIA+ siblings are sacred, whole, and divine. The full expression of the diversity of gender and sexuality is a gift. We share a collective responsibility to build a world that affirms the inherent worth and dignity of all. We can do better. We must do better.

I send my love and care to everyone in our communities impacted by this incident, by violence towards the LGBTQIA+ community, and by attempts to intimidate trans and non-binary individuals. I pray that our LGBTQIA+ siblings, neighbors, and loved ones may feel the love, and fierce and tender care, of community, colleagues, and families.

Spirit of Life, Spirit of Love and Justice – plant in our hearts the deep knowledge of the beauty of every life, of each of our lives and every life as precious and whole and needed. May we find ways to lean more deeply into practices that nurture wholeness and belonging in all of our communities and in our world."

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