



UCC Petaluma

A Ministry of Hope | Open & Affirming
Servants of the Just & the Good.

Sun Feb 5, 2023

Web: www.uccpetaluma.org

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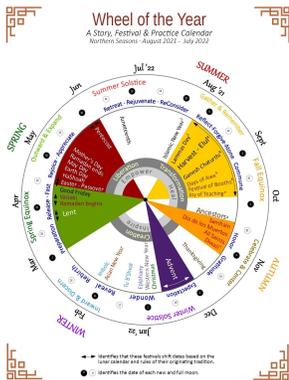
Email: uccpetaluma@gmail.com

*To Heal, Inspire and Empower in the Way of Jesus
So that all people may create lives of deeper meaning and greater value.*

News & Opportunities – Sunday and Beyond...

COVID Safety Update: This week we will be in the Partially Restricted Tier of our [In Person Safety Guidelines](#). This Sunday, masks and physical distancing are optional. Coffee & Tea will be offered after worship outside with Friendship Hall open for those who enjoy being inside.

2023 Wheel of the Year Published!



[Click Here to download a new Wheel of the Year for 2023.](#) This helpful visual tool is a helpful guide to your spiritual practice - connecting your unique faith to the festivals of our tradition in relation to the traditions of billions of others around the globe & the unique practices of your household. If you would like a printed copy of the Wheel, we would be pleased to make one for you. Please reply to this email. You can also download a copy at our [website](#).

Spiritual Learning:

[Here's a fascinating article on "Awe"](#) - offering a preview of a new book by Dacher Keltner who Pastor Jason referenced in his teachings on Power in October.

Mark Your Calendars!

Feb 5: Our annual meeting will be held in-person after worship this Sunday. We need your voice and participation to approve our annual budget and consider other important items that will help our congregation to thrive. We look forward to you being a part of our congregation's discernment.

Feb 8: The Genesis Circle (Single women's group): at 12:30pm in the Friendship Hall. This group meets on the second Wednesday of every month. To learn more about this group, please contact Dorothy Wilcox at 707-540-1796

Feb 12: My Spiritual Journey Sunday with Helen Heal sharing some of her story and journey. Be sure to join us to support the spiritual practice of knowing and being known.

Feb 13: UCC Petaluma Bible Study. Join a long-standing, thoughtful group in Bible study on the 2nd & 4th Mondays in the church library at 10am. Nov. 14 through Feb. 13 we are looking at the Parables of Jesus. Sessions led by various study members. All are welcome whether you have a lifetime of Bible study experience or none at all. To learn more, contact Dorothy Wilcox at 707-540-1796

Opportunities for Faith in Action

Thank you to McDowell Park Tree Planting Volunteers !!

ReLeaf planted over 85 trees with over 100 fantastically hard working volunteers! Consider taking a walk through the park and enjoy the new trees. These native trees will grow into power houses of carbon sequestration, clean air & shade providing beauties!

Black History Month Events



Petaluma Blacks for Community Development in coordination with the Petaluma Historical Library and Museum is presenting a variety of events throughout February. Concerts, lectures, storytelling activities and a new museum exhibit take place throughout the month — most for free and held at the museum. See a listing of events at the [Argus-Courier](#).

The Black Therapy Voucher Program: offers up to 12 sessions of mental health counseling with a culturally competent therapist. One need not be Black to receive this valuable benefit. Each session is valued at \$150 per session. Complete funding is provided by the County of Sonoma through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and is administered by the Sonoma County Black Forum. [Applications for the Black Therapy Fund open November](#)

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

3: Hilary Jones
6: Julie Traverso
13: Madeline Ruddell
22: Jorge Abulencia
24: Marilyn Linnell
26: Rod Washowich

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

1: Tim and Janet Talamantes
16: James and Elizabeth Corbitt

Worship Sunday Feb 5, 2023

Gathered in Sanctuary at UCC Petaluma

Special thanks to our liturgist this week, Sherry Eklof.

Inspiration

“Injustice leaves a legacy. It creates inequalities that do not simply disappear. And we need to use that knowledge to chart the long and winding path toward justice.” - Essau McCaully

Music as We Offer Light into Worship

“Variations on All Things Bright & Beautiful”

NCH #31 - based on John Rudder’s arrangement

Unison Call to Worship

“I Am Only One”

by Edward Everett Hale

“I am only one, but still I am one.
I cannot do everything,
but still I can do something;
and because I cannot do everything,
I will not refuse to do something that I can do.”

Sing

“If Not Now, Tell Me When”

Words & Music by Carrie Newcomer

If not now, tell me when. If not now, tell me when.
We may never see this moment or place in time again.
If not now; if not now; tell me when.

I see sorrow and trouble in this land. I see sorrow and trouble in this land
Although there’ll be struggle, we’ll make the change we can.
If not now; if not now; tell me when.

I may never see the promised land. I may never see the promised land.
And yet we’ll take the journey, And walk it hand in hand
If not now; if not now; tell me when.

If not now, tell me when. If not now, tell me when.
We may never see this moment, or place in time again
If not now; if not now; tell me when.

So we'll work it 'til it's done. Every child, every one,
Every soul that ever longed for, something better, Something brighter.
If not now; if not now; tell me when.

It will take a change of heart for this to mend.
It will take a change of heart for this to mend.
But miracles do happen ever shining now and then
If not now; if not now; tell me when.

Scripture

Micah 6:6-8 “With what shall I come before the Author of Life and bow myself before the Ultimate? Shall I come with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Divine be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my resistance, the fruit of my body for the errors of my soul?” Your Maker has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what is expected of you but to make justice, loving kindness, and walk humbly with your God.

John 5:6-13 When Jesus saw the many lying there, a man who had been waiting at the healing pool - excluded from the Temple for 38 years - he said to him, “Do you want to be made well?” The ill man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am making my way someone else steps down ahead of me.” Jesus said to him, “Stand up, take your mat and walk.” At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk. Now that day was a Sabbath. So the Jews said to the man who had been made well, “It is the [Sabbath](#); it is not lawful for you to carry your mat.” But he answered them, “The man who made me well said to me, ‘Take up your mat and walk.’” They asked him, “Who is the man who said to you, ‘Take it up and walk’?” Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had disappeared in the crowd that was there.

Responsive Communion Invitation

One: Let us gather in this simple and complex mystery -
a Sabbath Day Mystery of divinity and humanity, anointed-bound together
A story of strength & vulnerability - of endings & new beginnings.

All: Within, beyond, and between us all

One: Let us celebrate an ever-widening, never fearful understanding of God
Calling the world to leap free, wrestle free, release free of every inequity
Stretching out beyond the barricades of mind, body, and soul

All: Within, beyond, and between us all

One: In these simple elements, let us feast on an ultimate grace
drink in an intimate mercy that is always here for us

All: Within, beyond, and between us all

One: Let us humbly receive this healing, inspiring Mystery into our lives so that we
might empower a world that is workable for everyone.

All: Within, beyond, and between us all

Communion Blessing

'Go Peaceful'

by Paul Field, adapted

Go Peaceful, in gentleness
Through the violence of these days.
Give freely, show tenderness in all your ways
Through darkness, in troubled times, let holiness be your aim.
Seek wisdom, let faithfulness burn like a flame.
Love speed you, Love lead you,
And keep you wrapped 'round this Way.
May you be known,
May you be righteous, speak truthfully,
In a world with greed and lies, show kindness, see everyone
Through heavenly eyes may Love hold you, enfold you,
And keep you wrapped 'round this Way
May you be known.
May you be known by Love.

Glossary

This glossary is offered as a limited (and hopefully helpful) re-orientation to words that the culture and church have defined in one particular way, but are often more metaphorical and complex in our usage as a pluralist community of spiritual learning. These are terms whose deeper nuance and definition invite reflective study. This glossary is not meant to be complete or definitive, but rather a starting place for your learning.

Sabbath: a day upon which all “work” is ceased and worship (the offering of value) takes place. In Jewish practice which informed later Christian tradition, the Sabbath, known as Shabbat, is one of the 10 Mitzvot (*in English 10 commandments*). Its purpose is to “Remember & Keep” the truth that we are not intended to be slaves. The Hebrews were liberated from slavery under Pharaoh. The story is retold each year in a meal-based ritual called Passover. Each week, most often on Friday nights, practicing Jews light two candles as the sun sets (one to remember the original story & one to “keep” or retell the story in relevant meaningful ways to their lives). Jesus practiced the Sabbath - and so later Christians incorporated this practice by worshiping on what they believed was a new Sabbath day, the day of Jesus’ resurrection, Sunday, rather than Saturday (Shabbat is from Fri night to Sat night). Many raised in conservative Christian homes have memories of strict rules and restrictions prohibiting any kind of work or even any kind of fun on Sundays. Our congregation lights Sabbath candles on its communion table each Sunday, making the sign of the Divine (a circle) in-between the two candles as they are lit - signifying the mystery required to move between remembering an old story and keeping it ever-new in our time. We do not suggest any specific rules for Sabbath observance, but rather encourage your practice, rooted in the tradition, which calls each person to ask, “How am I or my world currently enslaved or even an enslaver of others? - literally, metaphorically, physically, emotionally, financially, socially, or spiritually. You are encouraged to invest your time differently on the Sabbath - asking and/or acting to heal enslavement(s), large or small, as you are both aware and able. A small commitment to a time of reflection/action practice can offer deeper meaning and greater value to every Life. Coming to church on Sunday is such a practice!