

LCUUF NEWS OF THE WEEK



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Issue 38

Dec 10, 2023 - Dec 17, 2023

Attend our weekly services in person or via Zoom on Sundays at 10:30am CST. We are located at 261 Hidalgo, Riberas Del Pilar. To participate on Zoom use this link:

[Sunday Service Zoom Link](#)

[Click Here To Send Your Joys And Sorrows For Sunday Dec 10, 2023](#)

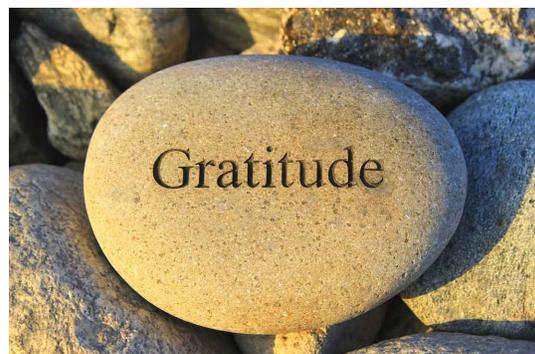
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**THIS WEEK: Sunday
December 10, 2023
"Gratitude"**

Presentor: Jud Dolphin

Dee Dee Camhi: Service Associate



The holiday season is upon us. It's time for giving. Mother Teresa reminds us, "It's not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving." Simple words open deeper reflections for more thoughtful kindness. It's not what we do for holiday spirit, but more importantly how we do it.

This Sunday we'll hear a true story of how playing Santa for needy children was turned upside down in Lafayette, Indiana. For 40 years, it's changed the way churches help families at Christmas time.

As the Dali Lama points out, "Our prime purpose in this life is to help others, And if you can't help, at least don't hurt them" Actions matter and especially at this time of year, wrap giving in in compassion, dedicated to lifting up others and respecting their inherent worth and dignity.



Please join us as we honor and welcome our newest members during our service on this Sunday.



**NEXT WEEK: SUNDAY
DECEMBER 17, 2023**

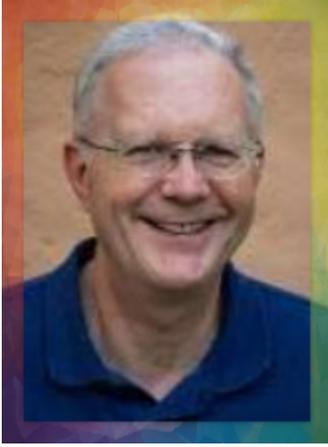
Sermon: Matt Alspaugh

**Service Associate: June
Wilson**

This time of year, with its increasing darkness and cooler days (at least in the northern hemisphere) plus the numerous holidays, invites us to ponder mystery. What are the deep questions for which we don't have answers, some for which we may never find answers? What is the nature of not knowing? Are there some questions which we should not ask? We'll explore a few of these questions as we wade from the comfort of the known toward the mysterious depths of the unknown.

Rev. Matt Alspaugh

As I write this, it's a bit 'cold' (59°F / 15°C) and 'rainy' (light drizzle) outside my Ajijic home. You folks further north can smirk, but I'm noticing how this weather, though needed,



affects my mood. This time of year, with its somewhat shorter days, still triggers a bit of Seasonal Affective Disorder for me, a slight sense of malaise, lethargy, as the days continue to shorten.

For many, the seasonal holidays (like the recent Novena de San Andrés here in Ajijic, or Hanukkah, or Christmas), with their light, colors, sounds, and celebrations, provide an energetic sense of lift in these dark times. But not for me. I want to embrace the darkness.

If I had to pick a holiday for this time of year, it might be Advent, the time leading up to Christmas day. For some, Advent is just the prequel to the main event, a time of waiting, nothing much to do beyond perhaps lighting some candles. But I think Advent has its own value, separate from Christmas. As theologian Debra Dean Murphy says,

“Advent is my kind of season.

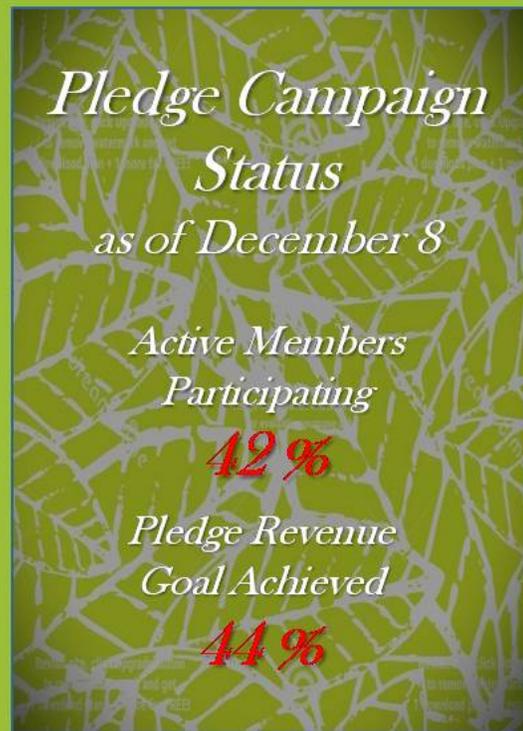
No, not the pseudo-Advent of most Christian piety with liturgically-correct hymns and texts on the Sundays of the season and full-on Christmas hoopla all the other days, but this one: the ancient, autumnal interval of darkness and foreboding with its achy uncertainty blanketing landscapes both inner and outer. This Advent offers room for doubt and struggle. It grants permission to rest in — rather than to resolve — the tensions and paradoxes, the sometimes maddening contradictions that shape the [Christian] life.”

This is what appeals to me - a time of questioning, and uncertainty. Many of us, perhaps most of us, in this fellowship know the importance of doubt in our spiritual journeys. We've been there, perhaps at one time comfortable with some set of religious beliefs, but then doubt creeps in, and we struggle to find where to go with that doubt. For some of us, our former religions offered no room for doubt, and we had to leave. For others, we found ways to live with, even cherish the doubt, reshaping our spiritual beliefs into something that coexists with that doubt.

And perhaps the majority of us have found our ways out of our former religious communities, and into this one, our fellowship. We appreciate that here, there is little pressure to be liturgically correct or theologically certain. We are grateful that our doubts and uncertainties are welcome. Christian or not, we may find that Advent reminds us to embrace all of our own spirituality, including the confused and uncertain parts, parts that need to rest for a time, hibernating in the darkness and the quiet, waiting for their time to emerge.



Credit: "What Peace Looks Like" by 13-year-old Anja Morze, a primary school student in Slovakia



Building The Beloved Community: Update

As of December 8, 42% of the Fellowship has submitted a pledge totaling only 44% of our pledge goal. WE NEED YOUR PLEDGE so we can continue to provide the Sunday Services, quality of music and host events like the Peace Vigil presented below. With less than half the Fellowship pledging less than half of what we need 2024 will be a challenging year for our congregation. PLEASE MAKE YOUR PLEDGE.

Click on the link below to open a PDF file of the pledge form that you can save to your computer and and print out. (When open, right click on the PDF to get the menu, click "save as" to download to your device and print out)

Get A Pledge Form

Update On Our Move To St. Andrews

Many of our members have been busy planning and preparing for our move next month to our new location at St. Andrews Episcopal Church. Activities related to our move include:



- Participating in a successful meeting and collaboration between LCUUF, St. Andrews and Barestage with regard to how we will all be sharing the same space.
- Deciding what we will bring with us
- Planning our technology needs and how we can help St. Andrews and Barestage with theirs
- Planning a celebratory last service in our current space and a march to our new space.

Much has happened and much is left to do. Click in the link below to read details about all the planning and activities related to our move. If you have questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact me at paulaodom01@gmail.com

Details About Our Move

LCUUF SOCIAL ACTION TEAM IN ACTION!

On Friday December 8th, over a dozen members of LCUUF held a Peace, Light and Love Vigil on the Caratera in La Floresta where they were warmly and enthusiastically greeted by passers by.



The Social Action Team Plans for 2024-2025

The LCUUF Social Action Team (SAT) is finishing its first year of "action" having spent much of their time researching and vetting charitable organizations for our "Share the Basket" program. In addition to the organizations we have been supporting they have

successfully added two additional charities: Nina Sabias and Asociación ProMexico .

And our Social Action Team is only getting started SAT plans for next year include:

- Holding at least two vigils for which we would provide materials as well as advertising to promote the vigils
- Working with the Sunday Service Committee to invite at least one guest speaker
- Continuing to explore lakeside charities for other social action opportunities as well as monitoring our existing ones.
Conducting a celebration event in January 2025

YOUR PLEDGE WILL HELP US ACHIEVE THESE GOALS

Want To Join Other UUs for a Christmas Dinner at La Nueva Posada?

Last year several of us from the Fellowship and their friends had Christmas dinner at La Nuevo Posada in their garden. The setting was perfect, the food was good and so was the fellowship. Would you be interested in doing this again?

This year there will be 2 sittings one at 1:30 p.m. and the second one at 5:00 p.m. at La Nuevo Posada. Sue Kelley will be collecting the money at the Fellowship on the next two Sundays or you can drop it off at Sue's house at 22A San Luis, right around the corner from the Fellowship. The price per person is \$ 590.00 pesos and that includes the 4 course meal plus an after dinner drink (Kahlua). The tip and tax is also included.



Please let Sue skelley (email: skelleymexico@gmail.com) know if you are interested . Thank you.



December Humanist Discussion Group Topic

The Humanist Discussion Group will meet **Wednesday, Dec 27th, 2023** at 11 am Via Zoom. Remember we are on Central Standard Time . The zoom link is:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86577912863>

We will explore the ethical dilemmas around disinformation and the use of narratives and emotions in manipulating reality. An increasingly influential stream of research demonstrates the integration of cognition and emotion in

political decision-making. Political cognition is emotionally shaped. The role of narratives in shaping people's minds has become an important area of research and debate, in particular in recent years when entire societies have made choices that seem "rationally" counterintuitive in this Post-Truth Era.



**Missed Sunday's Service?
Here is a video recording of the service
on Sunday December 3rd**

Also, click on the link below to view all recent LCUUF Services

[LCUUF Recorded Services](#)

WEEKLY AND MONTHLY EVENTS

Click on the + for info and links

Humanist Discussion Group-Wed Dec. 27 11am

+



Wednesday Dec. 27 11:00am on Zoom (CST)

Topic: The Middle East is a real quagmire of relationships. It is further complicated by the raid by Hamas on Israel on Oct. 7 and all the neighboring States possibly stopping the Israel/Saudi detente. The people of Palestine are not loved by their Arab neighbors creating refugee problems of acceptance. The real losers are the civilians on both sides caught in the political middle. The history of the conflict goes back centuries. We will take a look at its antecedents and history, current affairs, and regional and global implications. If you wish to be added to the reading list contact Bob Koches at bobkoches@gmail.com

Click to join on Zoom

Zoom Women's Group: 1st and 3rd Mondays

+

12pm - 1pm 1st and 3rd Mondays Monthly Catherine Luria, Facilitator: Contact CLuriaARNP@gmail.com for topics

Zoom Meditation Lessons: 3-4pm Thursdays

+

Richard Clarke, Facilitator. To find out more contact: riberasmeditation@gmail.com

Click to join on Zoom

Coffee "Above" The Plaza: Thursdays 10:30am

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Meet other UUs for weekly at Los Gringos (above the ice cream place) on the Plaza. Bring a friend!

Open Zoom Conversation: Fridays 2pm

+

Conversation is open to all questions. Email Richard Clarke at arunachalakindle@gmail.com

Click to join on Zoom



Birthdays This Week!

Roy Haynes 12/10

David Roush 12/14

Carol Powell 12/15

Carol Cumming Speirs 12/15

Sue Kelley 12/17

**Have News You Want To Share? Send it
to:**

newsletter@lcuuf.org

**Past Newsletters are Available on our
Website**

<https://lakechapalauu.org/lcuuf-monthly-newsletters/>.

Lake Chapala Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

**261 Hidalgo, Chapala
Mexico**

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