



All Peoples  
United Church of Christ  
**SOJOURNER NEWS**

A Central Oregon House Church

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## **WELCOMING EPIPHANY; SEEKING TO BE THE HANDS OF CHRIST**

Happy New Year! Whether 2018 is “just another year” is up to each and every one of us. Twenty seventeen has not been an easy year... just ask anyone. But, remember, for the disciples gathered around the table when epiphany came upon them, recent days had been unfathomably dispiriting. And yet, their spirits rose to meet the miracle of epiphany.

However serious you are about making New Year’s resolutions, (Wikipedia traces the practice back to the Babylonians), our shared Christian mandates call upon us to “do good works.”

Remember the request for APUCCers to submit lists of the “outside” charitable organizations in which you actively participate or at least to which you donate?

After reviewing the 7 lists submitted, it is clear, among other things, that a structured survey form would have produced more *manageable* data. Suffice it to say that APUCC is a loving, generous and active group of people. Categories of donation/participation range from A to V (Animal Welfare to Veteran’s Ranch) and an amazing array of organizations in-between. Local charitable and civic organizations draw much energy and support from APUCC folk. Also, regionally and world-wide, APUCC individual’s dollars are at work through frequent donations to organizations of broad scope and worth. In addition, our church friends exercise the power of the pen through print, politics and the internet.

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Against this background of active and loving APUCC friends, the urge to make (and keep) resolutions that follow in their paths is hard to resist.

Wondering where to turn for resolution inspiration? The following is from the JPA Net portion of the national UCC website: “Does taking action electronically make a difference?

“Yes! Decision-makers take notice when their mailboxes fill with emails and faxes. Congressional staff members keep regular tallies of the number of messages they receive on an issue, and it can make a difference on whether or not members of Congress support or oppose legislative measures. UCC JPA Net advocates have sent messages on a wide range of issues from environmental justice in the Hurricane Katrina clean-up, hate crimes, Millennium Development Goals for ending global poverty, violence against women, federal budget policy priorities, stem cell research, fair treatment of workers and more.”

SO let's get clicking! Happy New Year. ▲

## **STEP UP TO SERVE JERICHO TABLE'S JANUARY NEEDS**

It's mid-winter. Our partners, at St. Albin's Episcopal, who share serving duties at Jericho Table, is unable to join us during January. So, the responsibility falls to APUCC to carry on by asking three volunteers to help serve the hungry each Monday.

Jan. 1—No Jericho Table service.

Jan. 8—VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Jan. 15—Evelyn Doherty, Liz Douville & Laurie Power

Jan. 22—Fran Davis, Gerry Soto & Gloria Olson

Jan. 29—VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you are willing to volunteer, please call Nancy Cook at: 321-960-7728

Questions? Call Melanie Feilzer at 503-330-3164 or email her at: [melaniefeilzer@yahoo.com](mailto:melaniefeilzer@yahoo.com) ▲

## **VOTE JANUARY 23RD**

While it's not Healthcare for All, Measure 101 would protect healthcare access for up to 400,000 children across the state, as well as for seniors and people with disabilities.

**VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!**

# MODERATOR'S MUSINGS

by Nancy Cook  
December 26, 2017

It's the day after Christmas, 2017, as I sit down to write, perhaps something serious and wise. Okay, not likely wise, but this is both a serious and a joyous time of year; Jesus the Christ is born again in our hearts and minds. We are given a new beginning to live into the promise of the Christ child every year at Christmas. I love that thought! Just a week away, there is more than just a new year, but a year to resolve to live as we interpret how Jesus as adult in ministry lived. To LOVE as Jesus loved God and people. That love is what we teach and show to each other at All Peoples UCC... and to the world.

Please, keep those thoughts of love in your hearts and minds as you end 2017 and begin 2018. May that love show in your actions. Christmas evening I watched what has become, for me and my family, a favorite PBS Christmas event, the "Call the Midwife" Christmas special. It ended with Sister Julienne's line: "The hands of God are at the ends of YOUR arms."



If I have any words of wisdom with which to start 2018, it would be that line from Sister Julienne. ▲

**"THERE'S A SERMON IN THAT"** — *By Laurie Power*

Those who know me are aware that the phrase "there's a sermon in that" often pops out of my mouth. Why? Because someone has shared an interesting personal experience, reflection, or story that I think could be

reframed into a sermon/message/talk.

If you might be interested in leading worship, here are a few tips that have worked for me; read through them and see if they might work for you.

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**Scripture selection:** This is a key step. Consider exploring the UCC website (google [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org) and use the search button to find text for a particular Sunday (e.g. scripture for December 17, 2017) or a topic (e.g. scripture about love) and go from there. Once you choose a scripture text, read it several times, let it rest for a few days, and then reread it. How does it “speak” to you?

**Message length:** I suggest you keep it to 15 or so minutes; read your message out loud and time yourself. We squeeze a lot into our one hour worship service, don’t we (prayers, communion, announcements and hymns)?

**Leading worship:** Consider partnering with another member/friend of All Peoples. Pulling a service together with someone can be fun and enriching, plus it shares the creative responsibilities.

**Content:** There is no limit to content or style of delivering a message. All Peoples has welcomed sung services, stories read out loud, actors doing readings, videos, along with more traditional sermons. My suggestion is stick with what you know and love and share that with us in a manner that you are comfortable with.

**Resources:** I have a bookcase full of “Feasting on the Word” books that I turn to for inspiration and ideas—‘happy to share. Explore the web for working preacher, Pastor Dawn, Unitarian Universalist Association for prayer ideas, [www.Progressive Christianity.org](http://www.Progressive Christianity.org) and [www.patheos.com](http://www.patheos.com) (use the search features in both these sites for topics of interest to you).

Remember, we are a lay-led congregation and so grateful for each other’s contributions in ways the Spirit leads you! ▲

## **CHALK ONE UP FOR ACTIVISM**

The recently passed tax reform legislation does NOT contain at least one topic that the drafters had threatened with inclusion. The Johnson Amendment, that law that bans churches from funding and/or endorsing individual candidates for office, is still intact! Americans United for Separation of Church and State credits the many citizens and clergy who signed petitions and wrote legislators objecting to threats to the Johnson Amendment.

Be aware; it is still threatened! ▲

## THE THREE GREAT LOVES AND OUR SHRINKING NATIONAL MONUMENTS

We welcome worshipping with our friends in the Bloom in the Desert Ministries UCC/ Reconciling Methodist congregation in Palm Springs. Joyfully, they are celebrating the three Great Loves just like most UCC congregations across the U.S. and Canada. There is a warm sense of solidarity to see the impact of others focusing on the same loves.

Caring about our national monuments and the statement they make about each of our Great Loves seems perfectly natural. Sadly, the Trump administration, in collusion with a Utah senator, is set to destroy the promise that the Grand Staircase-Escalante monument made. Wildlife that require large areas of uninterrupted habitat will not do well. Next, in spite of polls showing the Utah populace



*Calf Creek Falls at Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, © Bureau of Land Management*

monuments wanted the monument left as is, Utah Senator Chris Stewart submitted a bill converting the five plots to three smaller plots plus a small national park.

In addition, the bill withdraws management of the area from BLM jurisdiction and places it under a state-level body. Stewart proposes

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as one option to use natural resources-based revenues from onshore and offshore oil and gas royalties to cover as much as half of national park maintenance costs. His alternative is a “backpack tax” on outdoor gear!



*Above—Peek-a-Boo Canyon*

*©Spenser Heaps of Deseret News*

Following the advice of UCC national offices (*see article page 1*), this is a time to sign petitions and take whatever action you can to counteract the damage that Secretary Ryan Zinke is proposing to national monuments across the nation, (except the one in his home state of Montana.) ▲

## **DORHAUER TAPS A COORDINATOR FOR THREE GREAT LOVES**

A California pastor, inspired by the United Church of Christ’s one-church mission initiative, hopes to help connect ideas and resources in the denomination’s effort to build a just world for all people.

[http://www.ucc.org/news\\_ucc\\_taps\\_california\\_minister\\_as\\_3\\_great\\_loves\\_coordinator\\_01022018](http://www.ucc.org/news_ucc_taps_california_minister_as_3_great_loves_coordinator_01022018)

## **GAY RODEO PHOTOGRAPHS!**

Laurie Power and Don Arkell highly recommend the current High Desert Museum exhibit of photographs from the gay rodeo circuit! Photographer Blake Little’s black-and-white photographs cover a period from 1988–1992. Laurie reports that Little’s photographs don’t just depict his individual past experiences with the rodeo, they celebrate the lives of rodeo participants, cowboys and cowgirls, and illustrate the collective memory of a vibrant community whose story is part of the Western experience. You can see the show until April 30, 2018. ▲

## **WILL HEALTHCARE-FOR-ALL COME BY WAY OF THE “INSTALLMENT PLAN?”**

The 2016 election year brought profuse promises from candidate Trump that he would negotiate with “Big Pharma” to bring drug prices under control.

Now, there are reports that the administration plans on attacking all healthcare entities except the drug industry. Medical services for the poor, the disadvantaged and anyone with major medical needs are in serious jeopardy while corporate drug manufacturers appear to be coming through unscathed. As it is, Americans pay more for drugs than any other developed nation. Within our country, Medicare pays even more for drugs than the Veterans Administration! Congress has prevented Medicare from negotiating better drug prices.

Big Pharma is profitable and still produces new drugs. New treatments debut at sky-high prices. Even old generic drugs have seen price increases. In recent years, prices have gone up 12 percent on average. Meanwhile, the pharmaceutical industry is spending millions on marketing and lobbyists to protect its unfair monopolies.

Faced with the governmental onslaught against medical services, Senator Bernie Saunders has proposed legislation that would allow Medicare to negotiate prescription drug discounts... an essential component of any single-payer health plan.

Might a circuitous road to “Healthcare for All” come through passage of a patchwork of individual bills that eventually approximate the single-payer dream? Crafting of an integrated, comprehensive healthcare-for-all system makes the most sense. But for now, controlling “big pharma” is urgent. ▲

## **APUCC DIVES INTO THE NEXT DISCUSSION BOOK**

When our Moderator reports that she stayed up until 3 a.m. reading this book, you may anticipate that it is going to provide lots of material for thoughtful discussion.

“My (Underground) American Dream” by Julissa Arce is the selection of the annual COCC book read, Building Common Ground, a project aimed at promoting unity in our area. Julissa Arce’s story is topical and engaging. You are welcome to dive in to the discussion, whether you have read the book or not. ▲



## JANUARY WORSHIP PLANS

All Peoples UCC meets to worship the first and third Sundays of the month at 11 a.m. Bookworms study meets 10–10:45 a.m.

**NOTICE: For a few months, we will be meeting at Redmond's County Library, 827 SW Deschutes Avenue, in the Community Room.**

### FINDING REDMOND'S COUNTY LIBRARY

- **From the north**—From Hwy 97 in Redmond, go right on Glacier (Hwy 126); right on 8th, cross Deschutes Ave. and go straight ahead into the library parking lot.
- **From the south**—coming north into Redmond on Hwy 97, exit left at Glacier (Hwy 126), right on 8th, at Deschutes Ave., cross straight ahead into parking lot.
- **From east or west on Hwy 126**—turn north on 8th St., at Deschutes Ave., cross straight ahead into library parking lot.
- **Finding the Community Room**—Enter at the main entrance, enter the first room on the left, opposite the rest rooms.



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Jan. 7th**—11 a.m. Worship—Nancy Cook  
10 a.m.—Adult Book Study/Discussion—  
My (Underground) American Dream by  
Julissa Arce, Discussion lead-  
ers—Nancy Cook and Laurie  
Power.

**Jan. 21st**—11 a.m. Worship—  
Sue Flory  
10 a.m. Adult Book Study/  
Discussion continuing—My  
(Underground) American  
Dream by Julissa Arce, Lead  
ers—Nancy Cook and  
Laurie Power.

### SOJOURNER NEWS

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Please join us every first and third Sunday for  
worship at 11 a.m.

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