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The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Whidbey Island Weekly News

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This Sunday's Service
December 17th, 2023 10am
Opening the Barn Door
Joseph Bednarik

With Toyan Copeland,
Worship Leader and
Eileen Soskin,
Special Musician

Image by AStoKo on Pixabay

Please join us in person or on
Zoom.

In his poem "the lamb was bleating softy," Juan Ramon Jimenez imagines being in Bethlehem two thousand years ago. "I opened the barn door to see if/He was there/He was!" As we approach the generous mysteries of Christmas, let's pull open the barn door of our heart to marvel at the holy

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Service Link

If you have trouble joining our Zoom meeting, email webmaster@uucwi.org for help.



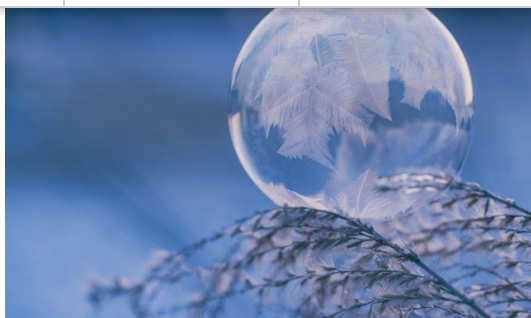
Next Sunday's Service December 24th, 2023 4pm Christmas Eve Service Two Stories of Christmas

With Terra Anderson,
Grey Bialik,
Effie Brown,
Mary Goosby,
Karen Heather,
Jay Taksony Hewitt,
Judy Kaplan,
Rebecca Maclain,
and Patricia Pocock

Image by AStoKo on Pixabay

Star Mother's Youngest Child by Louise Moeri is the story of a grumpy old woman who has never properly celebrated Christmas until a young star child comes to earth to find out what Christmas is all about. Together they discover the true meaning and magic of Christmas.

The birth of Jesus is the traditional story, told in word and song, of the child who came to teach us to truly love one another. The service closes with the candlelit singing of *Silent Night*.

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Click on blue titles for Zoom link.

Check out our [Members and Friends Facebook Page](#).

Image by Aaron Burden on Unsplash

Friday, December 15

10am - noon Leadership Council (Sanctuary)

Saturday, December 16

9 - 11:30 am UUCWI Work Party (Grounds)

Sunday, December 1710:00 [Worship Service](#) (Zoom & In Person)

Monday, December 18

Tuesday, December 193:30 - 4:30pm [Caring Circle](#)

Wednesday, December 2010am - Noon [Men's Group](#)

11am - 12:30pm Women's Group (Various Locations)

Thursday, December 2111am - noon [Stewardship](#) (Zoom)[Back to top](#)

Announcements and News

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Leadership Council Today! Friday, Dec. 15th 10am - noon

Dear All -

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting of the **Leadership Council on Friday, December 15, from 10:00-12 N in the sanctuary**. Whether you lead a committee, initiative or team; are or would like to be a member of some such group; or have ideas, hopes or observations to share - whoever you are, you will be an important part of this gathering.

A copy of the proposed agenda is [here](#). Please note this includes an emphasis on how UUCWI welcomes people. Do we need to do anything differently? How can committees work together to make this happen? AND, the topic of "Radical Welcome" will be introduced. What does this mean? How can we do it?

If there is something you would like added to the agenda, please let Mavis know. May we all continue our work to bring people together for the good of the heart of UUCWI and the wider community.

Mavis Cauffman
Toyana Copeland

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Image by Annie Spratt on Unsplash.

Pastoral Care & Connections at UUCWI

UUCWI offers comfort and presence when times of trauma and distress touch our lives. We have a pastoral care team which includes Rev. Kate Lore, our interim minister for pastoral care. If you or someone you know might benefit from this offering please consider contacting our coordinator, Bill Graves, at pastor@uucwi.org.

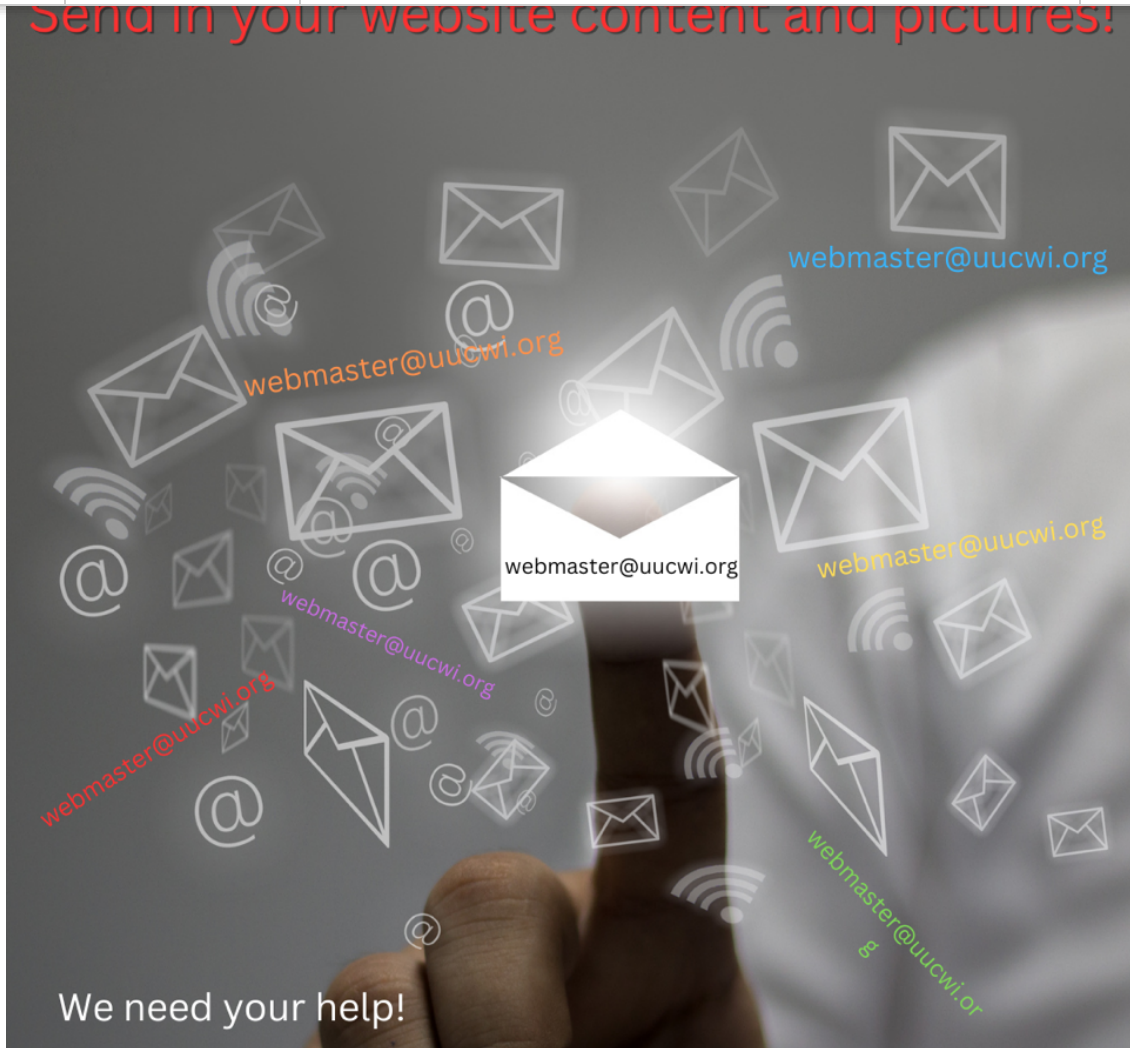
UUCWI also has a Caring Connections team that can provide needed short-term support of a logistical nature (food, a ride to medical, etc.). To make requests email Mavis Cauffman, our coordinator of these types of services, at caringconnections@uucwi.org.

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Send in your website content and pictures!



We need your help!



2nd Hour Initiative

After Sunday Services

11:30 - 12:30

Members and Friends, please suggest topics for discussion, crafts, music

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2H December 17th No Activities Planned

End of the Month Potlucks

Our End of the Month potlucks will pause for the holiday season. We will resume the potlucks on January 28th, 2024. Time flies so fast - 2024 would you believe?



Image by DJ Winebrinner

Women's Group

All Meetings 11:00am - 12:30pm

Wednesdays In Person at Various Locations

May be at a variety of impromptu locations by group members for activities together like having coffee, shopping, walking trails, visit studio or nurseries, going out to eat, etc. Sign up on our email list to receive those invites. Contact DJ Winebrinner by phone or email.

Image by Jonathan Borba on Unsplash

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UUCWI Initiative News

[New Initiative Proposal Form Link](#)

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	Spiritual Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual Arts Committee • Music Committee • Worship Committee 	Troyan Copeiana
	Member Service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership • Library • Engagement Development 	Clara <u>Beier</u>
	Technology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tech Team • Internet 	Janet Garrow
	Building and Grounds	John Long and Don Winebrinner
	Finance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance • Stewardship 	Lois Chowen
	Community Outreach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Initiatives • Social Justice 	Rommel Nunn

Native Connections Initiative



DECEMBER NEWSLETTER [HERE](#):

[Join our email list](#) to automatically receive our monthly NCI newsletter in your inbox.

INDIGENOUS CALENDARS:

Two ways to explore the Indigenous calendars that are logical to the Peoples who have close relationships with our local, natural environment.

[SAMISH 13 MOONS](#): For the Samish, after the *Moon of Putting the Paddles Away* (November), December is the *Moon of the Elders*.

[SWINOMISH 13 MOONS PROJECT](#): **Children of the Setting Sun Productions** brings us stories and activities on YouTube for each of the 13

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Moon of the Sacred Time.

TOKITAE CONTINUES TO MAKE THE NEWS

[The Washington Post](#) recently published an excellent article about the life, death, and legacy of Tokitae.

INDIGENOUS NEWS SOURCES: If you'd like to stay current on the news from Indigenous people and their communities, here are some excellent sources:

[Native News Online](#)

[Indian Country Today](#)

[High Country News, Indigenous Affairs](#)

[Seattle Crosscut, Indigenous Affairs](#)

Supporters of United Student Leaders Initiative



Annual Fundraiser

United Student Leaders is hosting our annual fundraiser to support youth climate and social justice organizing. With the new year, we are looking towards advocating for stronger education funding for schools in Washington State and organizing an educational youth climate summit to network and connect with students in the area. **Please help us meet our goal of \$7,500 by December 31st. Fill out the form [linked here](#) to contribute now!** and thank-you for your support.

Edmonds Schools Presentation

Last week, USL members presented in two middle school classrooms in the Edmonds School District. We explained our mission and how we got started, as well as how we create change in our community. We also

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multitude of questions and were very engaged. We are grateful for the opportunity to present and share what we've learned about leading action in our community.

COP28

The 28th international COP climate summit is currently taking place in Dubai. There has been controversy over the head of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, Sultan Al Jaber serving as the president of the summit. This summit operates as a meeting for delegates from 200 countries to collaborate on collective action towards the climate crisis. As of December 4th, COP28 had mobilized over \$58 billion with the United States putting \$3 billion towards the Green Climate Fund. The United States has also been at the face of criticism for President Biden not attending the summit and only contributing \$17.5 million (towards the \$100 million promised) to an environmental damage and loss fund. So far, there has been some movement on sustainable agriculture and other efforts but many countries disagree over a phase-out plan for fossil fuels. In the coming days of the COP28, we hope to see stronger collaboration towards climate justice supported with concrete action plans.

Naomi Atwood, Sophia Patrin, and Audrey Gmerek on behalf of USL

*submitted by Gary Piazzon USL/UUCWI liaison



Members and Friends Facebook Group

UUCWI has a **Members and Friends Facebook Group** to encourage sharing information, resources, and discussions. Check it out [here](#).

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Social Environmental Justice

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“It became crystal clear that climate change not only exacerbates all the world’s most grave human rights challenges, it also prevents solutions to global crises: conflict, war crimes, involuntary migration, poverty, and global health. This is why I work on climate change.

-Kelly Matheson

UUs Support Peace in the Middle East -

- DRUMM: [Open Letter to Unitarian Universalist Colleagues](#) on the War and Occupation in Palestine
- [Unitarian Universalist Justice in the Middle East](#) call for immediate ceasefire. [Read their statement here.](#)

On Sunday 12/10/23 18 Children Filed Suit against the US Environmental Protection Agency. *Genisis B vs EPA* asserts that for decades the EPA has allowed carbon pollution threatening children's health and future. Plaintiffs claim their lives were devalued in the process. Fighting climate change depends upon people around the world leading all sorts of actions - from protest to legislation to litigation. Our Children's Trust is powered by hundreds of communities and global partners across the climate movement. Read more about this lawsuit and their other valiant efforts on behalf of the world's children in their newsletter [here](#).

Key Facts About How War Impacts the Climate Crisis and the Environment

- Militaries consume enormous amounts of fossil fuels, which contributes directly to global warming. If the US military were a country, for example, it would have the 47th highest emissions total worldwide.
- Bombings and other methods of modern warfare directly harm wildlife and biodiversity. The collateral damage of conflict can kill up to 90% of large animals in an area.
- Pollution from war contaminates bodies of water, soil, and air, making areas unsafe for people to inhabit.
- The world's militaries account for an estimated 6% of all greenhouse gas emissions, and many governments don't even report data on

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"With all the problems we face, facing them together is a celebration of peaceful defiance."

*submitted with care and concern by UUCWI member Gary Piazzon

Submissions

UUCWI Weekly E-News

Purpose: To remind and inform UUCWI congregation & visitors of upcoming services and church-related events.

Published: Weekly, sent Fridays at 5:00 a.m. via MailChimp.

Deadline: All submissions must be sent to editor by **WEDNESDAY AT NOON** for the current week's publication.

Submissions:

- Be direct and concise in your announcement.
- Think of what, when, where, and why. Suggest a short headline.
- Avoid using acronyms or abbreviations. If you do, define your acronym or abbreviation in your first use, like this: *Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Whidbey Island (UUCWI)*.
- You may include a graphic if you would like but must credit the artist/source.
- Do not use personal emails or telephone numbers. Contact admin@uucwi.org if you would like to arrange contact information for your item.

Topics:

- Worship Services and congregational news
- Messages from the Minister
- Board of Trustees and UUCWI Official Notices
- Committee, Initiative and Program news submitted with the approval of the Chair, Initiative or Program Leader
- UUA information
- Local events UUCWI sponsors

To avoid duplicating other Island announcement services, like Drew's List, we will not accept notices for community events, unless UUCWI is a sponsor of, or a congregant is a participant in, the event.

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and will need to be re-submitted.

All submissions for eNews are due by

WEDNESDAY AT NOON.

Please send all submissions to UU Staff at admin@uucwi.org

Thank you!



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