

Sun Jan 9, 2022



**UCC
Petaluma**

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

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*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 for Sunday and Beyond...

2nd Hour Gatherings Suspended thru January

After careful consideration of the risks in our current environment, we have decided to suspend 2nd Hour gatherings through the month of January. We join congregations across our area and nation in this precaution. As a human community gathered in the Way of Jesus, we recognize how important in-person gathering is to our individual and collective well-being. We also recognize the profound medical risk now present in even outdoor gathering due the Omicron variant and our County's current "severe" risk status. Our Team will be meeting regularly to assess ongoing risk levels and our ability to return to 2nd Hour gathering as soon as it is safe to do as a true sanctuary - one of the very safest places in our community. ***Online Sunday worship on Facebook and Zoom will continue as it has during this season of shelter.***

We are sure that you know many who have become ill recently, if not from COVID, then from other flu-like conditions that are widely circulating. Let's all take a moment today to reach out to those we know and ask about their physical and spiritual well-being in these times. In this Way, each of us can be a part of the priesthood of the faithful that we embody as a congregation. If you have questions, please reach out to the UCCP In-Person Ministries Team: Rowena Abulencia, David Carballal, Rob Ruddell, Mark Shelton, Julie Traverso, and Pr. Jason Hubbard

UCC Petaluma Book Group Begins a New Read for a New Year!

The UCC Petaluma book group will be reading "Sacred Earth, Sacred Soul" by John Philip Newell, his new book on Celtic spirituality. Plan to join the discussion on Thursday January 20 at 10 am including the Introduction and first two chapters (Pelagius and St. Brigid). Phillip Newell will be speaking at First Presbyterian San Rafael on Saturday February 19 at 10 am. We hope to make a field trip to take in the author live! Details to follow. Contact Paul Eklof at peklof@pacbell.net to learn more.

About the book: Philip Newel reveals how Celtic spirituality—listening to the sacred around us and inside of us—can help us heal the earth, overcome our conflicts, and

reconnect with ourselves... explaining how this earth-based spirituality can help us rediscover the natural rhythms of life and deepen our spiritual connection with God, with each other, and with the earth.

Virtual Tour Bangladesh

UCC Global Ministries and the Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh (CCDB) invite you to participate in a virtual pilgrimage to Bangladesh! Join us to learn about how people along the coastlines of Bangladesh are responding to the challenges of climate change, rising ocean levels, salinization of land, frequent natural disasters, and consequent disruptions and displacement. Participants will learn about the following responses: climate-resilient agricultural practices, alternative skills training, and women's initiatives for social and economic development. This immersion and interaction will be facilitated by the CCDB through a series of sessions of pre-recorded materials and live conversations. Learn more and sign up by clicking [HERE](#)

Cool Petaluma Kickoff Party! Wed, Jan 12 from 6-7 p.m. on Zoom

Cool Petaluma will host a fun-filled hour of community building as they share the plan for the year ahead. Please come to celebrate our beginning and learn even more about how you can participate! <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85334072804>

In-Person Ministries Update

We hope that you all received the recent letter from the In-Person Ministries Team sharing specific plans for our on-going in-person ministries. We recognize that there are a great variety of spiritual and medical needs in our congregation. Individual needs are important and valuable and yet never more so than the needs of others - this is the essence of the Platinum Rule "to treat others as they, just like we, have need." (*Lev 19:18/Matt 7:12*). We all desire to gather warmly and in person as soon as we possibly can. The calling of Christians, especially in times of uncertainty, is to error toward the needs of the most vulnerable. Our In-person Ministry Team, in service of our Church Council, is working very hard to research, create and implement COVID safety policies and needed building improvements based on the latest science in harmony with our missional vision in the Way of Jesus.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

12: Dorothy Wilcox

12: Garnet McClure

18: Juliet Emerson-Colvin

28: Michael Vosler

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

4: Bob & Bev Hughes

Sunday Dec 19, 2021

This Sunday We will practice Communion together with a special Epiphany blessing written just for this season. If you desire to receive communion elements during worship, please take time now to prepare a little something to eat and and sip. There are no correct elements. Whatever is available and meaningful to you is right.

Prelude

Variations on “Morning Star & We Three Kings”

By F.F. Hagen - arranged and performed by Al Martin

Congregational Singing

“Open My Eyes That I May See”

1895 Clairia H. Scott

Open my eyes that I may see, glimpses of truth you have for me.
Place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready my God, reveal with me
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my ears that I may hear, voices of truth thou sendest clear,
and while the wave notes fall on my ear, ev'rything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready my God, reveal with me
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my mouth and let me bear; gladly the warm truth ev'rywhere.
Open my heart and let me prepare love with all children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready my God, reveal with me
Open my mouth, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Today's Teaching Scriptures

Isa 60:1-4 Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Author of Life has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, a thick darkness on the peoples; but the Divine will arise upon you, and glory will be revealed all around you. People from different traditions shall come to your light, and the powerful to the brightness of your dawn.... a multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of One Who Has Given You Life.

Ephesians 1: 4-6 4 The Author of Life has given us a calling before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before the One Who Has Given Us Life in love. Our Maker ordained us for inclusion through the Way of Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of Divine intention. To the praise of this graceful glory wherein we are accepted in Love.

John 14: 18-21 [And Jesus said to the disciples,] “I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in God, and you are in me, and I in you.”

An Epiphany Blessing

By Rev. Jason Hubbard

May you begin, for the first time or again,
those endeavors that open you
to reveal deeper and wider truth
for yourself, others, and the world.

May you respect and heal your body, mind and spirit
Mindful not to harm others along your Way

May you accept gracefully the story and circumstances
that you have not yet found Epiphany to transform

May you connect even more deeply to the natural world
Learning from her for the benefit of all

May you bathe yourself and others in gratitude
Seeking to be found by the One who has given you Life

May you hear the promise made to you by the teacher we follow:

“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to find you.
In a little while the world will no longer see me,
But you will see me because I live in you who also lives
On that day you will know that I am in God,
and you are in me, and I, in you.”