



UCC Petaluma



A Ministry of Hope - A Mission of Healing
Open & Affirming to All
Servants of the Just & the Good

Sunday, Oct 18, 9:30am

Find UCC Petaluma at:

Web: www.uccpetaluma.org

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Preparing for Worship

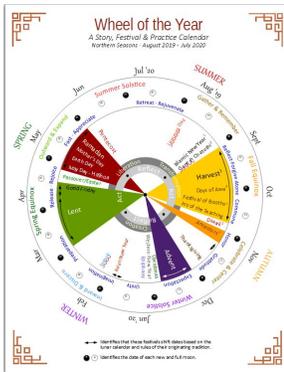
Last week, many people we know and love, joined with millions of others in celebrating **National Coming Out Day**, an important day in the lives of those who share a connection, (sometimes life-giving, sometimes life-denying) with “coming out.” Sharing the truth of one’s identity with friends, family and community regarding sexual, gender, and other identities is a faithful act of vulnerability, courage, and trust. We are called, as followers in the Way of Jesus, to create sanctuaries, safe spaces, for these truths to be spoken, heard, and affirmed within a fearful culture.

This Wednesday, October 21, we recognize **International Pronoun Day** (<https://pronounsday.org/>). This day may be lesser-known to you. It is however an important evolution in our culture’s understanding and practices regarding identity. One of the most challenging of all practices to evolve regarding identity is our language. As parents of a non-binary, gender-fluid young adult, Dana and Jason invite you to learn more by going to <https://www.mypronouns.org/what-and-why>.

Today’s liturgy and teaching are centered in our tradition’s commitment to help all people to express their identities fully as a unique expression of the God who has given us Life. We welcome you to join in the often-challenging journey of helping our culture to create a world that works for everyone.

Preparing for Worship

We will be “dark” next Sunday, October 25. We will not broadcast worship so that our wonderful Staff can take some much deserved rest. We will be sharing alternative online worship opportunities for you to explore on October 25. We also invite you to take a Sabbath Sunday in some way that is meaningful to you. We look forward to gathering again online Sunday, Nov. 1 for All Saint/Souls Day and Dia De Los Muertos.



Print your *Wheel of the Year!* Our community worships and learns in context with ancient scripture, modern art/wisdom, and a liturgical calendar called a Wheel of the Year. Please [Click Here](#) to print your Wheel for Fall 2020. This season's Wheel contains updated festival dates and focus intentions that will allow you to customize the Wheel for your journey season. If you don't have a printer, please let us know. We'll bring you a copy!

What is a Wheel of the Year? It's something like a spiritual-religious calendar. It is rendered as a circle which identifies the Seasons, Festivals, and Thematic emphasis across Christian practice and many other world traditions. The Wheel is customized by each household - adding/removing elements to bring the calendar into deep relevance. The ability to "see" how our tradition lives in time relative to other religions and festival seasons greatly enhances one's ability to practice [pluralism](#) - a mutually honoring among traditions.

Small Commitment Circle begins Oct 14

Our first Small Commitment Circle sold out! It was a wonderful hour and there are 3 more gatherings yet to come for this group. If you'd like to gather face to face at the church to be supported in the small commitment you make each Sunday, please contact Pr. Jason directly to join in. We'll create as many of these worshipful circles as there is interest. jjhubbs64@gmail.com We'd love to see you!

Anam Cara - Soul Friend - Small Circles

If you'd rather gather in a more general, yet still worshipful way, we welcome you to join an Anam Cara Circle. Anam Cara means Soul-Friend. Watch your email inbox for an invitation to practice the worshipful art of listening with very small groups of 4-5 people who will practice safest gathering practices - allowing people to gather in person once each month at church. We will model for our city how to gather outdoors, in-person, physically distant, and in compliance with all law and regulation to be safely present for one another once each month in a way that is "safer than "going to the grocery store" and far more meaningful! Please contact Mary Alden at msj349@gmail.com if you would like to join a circle.

Hymn

De Colores
NCH Hymn # 402

De... Colores!

Yes the colors we see in the springtime with all of its beauty.

De Colores!

When the sunlight shines out thru a rift in the clouds and it showers.

De Colores!

As a rainbow appears when a storm-cloud is touched by the sun.

All the colors abound for the whole world around

and for everyone under the sun

Y por eso los grandes amores de muchos colores me gustan ami

De... Colores!

Yes the colors of people parading on by with their banners.

De Colores!

Yes the colors of pennants and streamers and plumes and bandanas

De Colores!

Yes the colors of people who celebrate freedom as One.

All the colors abound for the whole world around

and for everyone under the sun

Y por eso los grandes amores de muchos colores me gustan ami

De Colores!

Yes the black and the white and the red and the brown and the yellow.

De... Colores!

All the colors of people who smile and shake hands and say "Hola"

De Colores!

Yes the colors of people who know that their freedom is won.

All the colors abound for the whole world around

and for everyone under the sun

Y por eso los grandes amores de muchos colores me gustan ami

Prayer

Setu Prayer

By Eknath Easwaran, founder of Blue Mountain Center for Meditation,
meeting at UUC Petaluma for more than 35 years.

Dear Lord, please fill my heart
with love and devotion for you
and burn out all seeds of selfish desire
and sense craving in my mind.

Grant that I may be carried by you
from this life to the next without suffering
and be born in a holy family
with my heart overflowing
with love and devotion for you
from earliest childhood onwards.

*Eknath Easwaran (1910-1999), founder of the Blue Mountain Center of Meditation,
used this prayer daily during the last years of his life.*

*This passage is published in Easwaran's spiritual anthology, "God Makes the Rivers to Flow."
The audio recording is by Eknath Easwaran's wife, Christine Easwaran.*

“To be nobody but yourself in a world
which is doing its best day and night to make you like
everybody else means to fight the hardest battle
which any human being can fight and never stop fighting.”

~E.E. Cummings

Today's Teaching Scriptures

Genesis 25:29-34

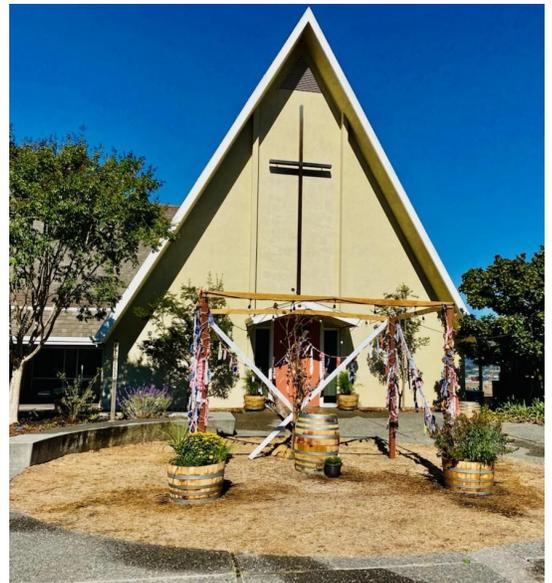
Once, when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and was famished. 30 Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!" 31 Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright." 32 Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" 33 Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. 34 Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus, Esau despised his birthright.

Genesis 27:1-9

When Isaac was old and his eyes were dim so that he could not see, he called his elder child Esau and said to him, "My son"; and he answered, "Here I am." 2 He said, "See, I am old; I do not know the day of my death. 3 Now then, take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field, and hunt game for me. 4 Then prepare for me savory food, such as I like, and bring it to me to eat, so that I may bless you before I die." 5 Now Rebekah was listening when Isaac spoke to his child Esau. So when Esau went to the field to hunt for game and bring it, 6 Rebekah said to her child Jacob, "I heard your father say to your sibling, Esau, 7 'Bring me game, and prepare for me savory food to eat, that I may bless you before Adonai before I die.' 8 Now therefore, my child, obey my word as I command you. 9 Go to the flock, and get me two choice kids, so that I may prepare from them savory food for your father, such as he likes; 10 and you shall take it to your father to eat, so that he may bless you, and not your brother, before he dies."

The Harvest Shelter (Sukkah) Rises!

We hope you will find your way up to church as you are safe, masked, and able to be with the Harvest Shelter as it continues to rise in our courtyard. This week the ribbons from our Maypole wrap the four corner pillars with the names of every one of us now adorning the beautiful space! New plantings at the entry to the sanctuary and Shelter also add to our Sukkah and practice. A special thanks to the Fosters & Smiths for their efforts!





You can Sponsor our Youth!

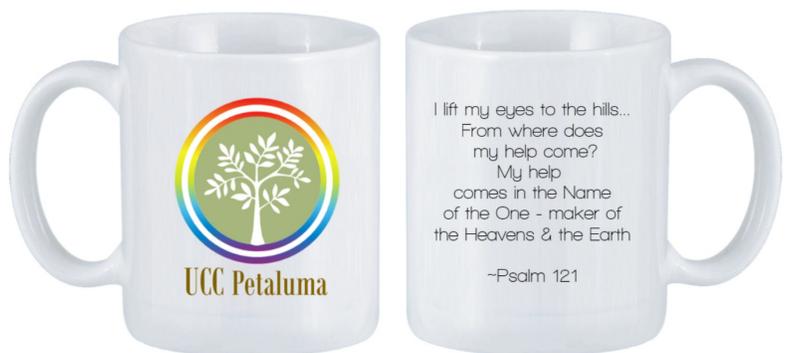
The youth of UCC Petaluma are excited to offer you the opportunity to become a sponsor of our growing ministry this season. As a sponsor of your youth group, you can choose from three wonderful gifts as a thank you for your sponsorship. Each level of sponsorship offers more gift choices! At each level, you can choose between mums, poinsettias, and mugs or even get all three! We want to make sure that everyone can participate, so if these sponsorship levels don't work for you, please contact Pr. Jason and we will make sure that you can participate. Some folks have already become Heavenly level sponsors and donated back to church some of their gifts to be shared with those who are not able to afford sponsorship.

MUMS, MUGS & POINSETTIAS



Mums for the Harvest Booth *in memory* of your beloved who have passed on. These might be ancestors or someone important to you whose spirit you would like to bring into our harvest booth (Sukkah). The mums will adorn the beautiful structure over seven weeks for All Saints/All Souls Day, Day of the Dead, and the harvest season. Your Mums will have a card noting the person you are remembering. You are welcome to take the mums to your home after Thanksgiving.

UCC Petaluma Communion mugs featuring Psalm 121! Is this a great holiday gift or what? We are super excited to have them bring warmth and love in a cup each Sunday, connecting us all by heart. These mugs will be available for pick up at church on a Sunday afternoon or can be brought to you if you are not able to travel.



Opportunities for Mission & Ministry

Having trouble getting your vote to the polling station?

Our own Mark Resichiling has volunteered to help you get your vote to the ballot box! If you'd value help in this way, just contact us at the office and we'll connect you to Mark. Thank you Mark for sharing this ministry of delivery!

Keep a lookout for our Youth Sponsorship Mailer an Emails!

Our Young people are on fire! They've put together a really wonderful collection of opportunities to share in the joy of the season. Mums & Marigolds to celebrate the ancestors, Poinsettias for the Holidays and Communion Mugs you'll just love. More to come soon!

UCC Petaluma October Newsletter is out!

If you didn't receive an email this week with the UCC Newsletter, please do let us know. There is so much good news to share. Call, email or connect with us however you prefer and we'll make sure that you are included!

The SUKKAH continues to rise!

What an exciting thing it is to have the Harvest-Shelter, known to Jesus as a Sukkah, begin rising in our courtyard. Like the Maypole, the Sukkah has a rich history which you can get in on! It will take weeks for the Sukkah to reach its full glory - evolving with the season to honor and include many traditions (Pluralism!) that can inform our Way with Jesus. If you'd like to join in the building and adorning of the Sukkah this year, please contact Pr Jason or Dana with your interest!

Become a Sunday Zoom Host!

Welcome ***The Fosters, Keenan and Patty Jane*** as your Zoom Hosts this Sunday! Thank you all for stepping forward to make this part of our Sunday gathering possible! If you're a person who is comfortable using Zoom, please step forward as a Servant! Simply email Dana at danachristianlee@gmail.com to offer your interest. It's not hard if you are already comfortable with Zoom. Our ability to have Zoom on Sundays is depends on volunteers like you! We'll train you on the fine details which are few. It will be fun!

Pray the Names arrives Nov 1.

We're looking for Gardeners to help us plant a number of 1/2 barrels that will direct visitors through the exhibit. If you can help us to design and/or create these, we'd love to include you. This work can be done alone at the church, keeping it safe for all! Thanks to those who have volunteered to help us install the 160 signs with names using a gas-powered auger, hammers and other tools. We can still use more help!

There are many less-physical ways to support the installation. If you would be blessed to contribute time and effort, please contact Pastor Jason! [Click here to read the article.](#)

Do You Have a Go Bag?

Fire season is here and sadly, we are already seeing evacuations. Having a bag of essentials prepared in case of immediate evacuation is a simple and smart way to prepare for a situation we pray none of us will experience. If you'd like suggestions and resources, a local Assemblyperson, Marc Levine, offers these [suggestions](#).

Annual Gathering of the Northern California Nevada Conference of the UCC will be held on October 24, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (tentative). Register [HERE](#).