



First
Unitarian Universalist
Church of San Diego

FirstWords

Our Monthly Publication

December 2016; Vol. 10, No. 10

DR. YSAYE M. BARNWELL AT FIRST CHURCH

BY REV. IAN W. RIDDELL



We know music to be a transmitter of culture and tradition, a way of knowing, a way of expressing, and a way of connecting with others and with the deeper reality of our lives. Its presence in our lives teaches us, inspires us, challenges

us, and transforms our reality. The music ministry at First Church strives to explore, collaborate, worship, and be transformed through and by the music we make—individually, in groups large and small, and with the whole community. We strive to create opportunities for all to explore and participate to the breadth of their abilities and comfort.

We're excitedly getting ready for a visit from musician, composer, singer, and teacher Dr. Ysaye M. Barnwell over the weekend of January 14-15.

A singer for the group, Sweet Honey In The Rock®, Dr. Barnwell joined them in 1979, where her training as a Sign Language Interpreter led her to facilitating the group's tradition of including a Sign Language Interpreter in the ensemble. After 34 years, Barnwell retired from Sweet Honey In The Rock to pursue her other interests. She has, for the past 30 years, spent much of her time off stage working as a master teacher and choral clinician in African American cultural performance.

On Saturday, January 14, Dr. Barnwell will lead a workshop in Bard Hall, Hillcrest titled "Building a Vocal Community ®: The Power of Song in Community." On her website (www.vocalcommunity.com), Dr. Barnwell writes, "There is an awesome power in the human voice and when uncommon voices are blended for the common good, they become a 'vocal community' at its best." Using the oral tradition, Dr. Barnwell will lead participants in singing "rhythms, chants, traditional songs from Africa and the Diaspora, and a variety of songs from African American culture including spirituals, ring shouts, hymns, gospels, and songs from the Civil Rights movement."

Throughout the workshop, this music and the practice of singing it will be placed in the historical and social context of the communities from which it grew. You don't have to be a trained singer to take part in this powerful workshop. "All that is required," Dr. Barnwell says, "is a willingness to sing."

On Sunday, January 15, Dr. Barnwell will co-lead the Sunday morning services at our Hillcrest Campus with Rev. Ian W. Riddell, our Minister of Music and Worship Arts.

Watch *The Window* for more information about the services, the workshop and how to register.

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EMBRACING THE DARK AND THE LIGHT

BY REV. KATHLEEN OWENS, LEAD MINISTER

December Sermon Messages

The month of December is such a full one – with many events, gatherings, and celebrations throughout the month. You'll find the events list for First Church in this magazine, a few pages over. Our personal calendars also fill up quickly with plans involving family and friends, special meals, and long to-do lists to prepare for all that's happening.

In the midst of the preparations and the hustle and bustle, there are always the questions about how we're spending our time, our energy, and our money. Isn't there another way we might recognize the season without getting caught up in the consumer mentality that looms so large this time of year?

One way many groups and committees at Church have started recognizing and honoring this season, is to not have the usual monthly meeting in December. Lay leaders and staff choose to take a break – not only so holiday events could have some room, but also so that in this season, we might slow down as the early night approaches—so we might relish the dark, take the time to light a candle, to take in the quiet or to sing together and then enjoy the eventual return of the light.

We have a deep need to embrace both the dark and the light in our days and in our lives. Doing so allows us to take in life's fullness so we might be more whole ourselves. The Rev. Kathleen McTigue says it this way, "May the light around us guide our footsteps, and hold us fast to the best and most righteous that we seek. May the darkness around us nurture our dreams, and give us rest so that we may give ourselves to the work of our world. Let us seek to remember the wholeness of our lives, the weaving of light and shadow in this great and astonishing dance in which we move."

In this season, this is my prayer for us – so that in the coming New Year – we might dance anew and with joy. I wish you all a season filled with what you need most.

Faithfully,

Celebration Times:

Hillcrest Campus: Sunday, 9:30 am and

11:30 am (ASL Interpretation)

South Bay Campus: Sunday, 9:30 am

(Intergenerational, Bilingual [Spanish, English])

December's Transformational Theme is "The Holy"

December 4, 2016

Hillcrest Services—

"Building a World Worthy of our Children"

Rev. Ian W. Riddell, *Minister of Music and Worship Arts*

South Bay Service—

"Soul Listening"

Alix Klingenberg, *Intern Minister*

December 11, 2016

Hillcrest Services—

"Be Not Afraid! - December Music Sunday"

Rev. Ian W. Riddell, *Minister of Music and Worship Arts*

South Bay Service—

"Our Lady of Guadalupe"

Lorelei Garner

December 18, 2016

Hillcrest Services—

"The Longest Night"

Rev. Kathleen Owens, *Lead Minister*

South Bay Service—

"Solstice: the cosmic rebirth"

Alix Klingenberg, *Intern Minister*

December 25, 2016

Hillcrest Services—

"Stories and Carols"

Rev. Kathleen Owens, *Lead Minister*

South Bay Service—

"Stories and Carols"

Rev. Ian W. Riddell, *Minister of Music and Worship Arts*



YOUTH PROGRAMS AND OUR WHOLE LIVES

BY KATHE LARICK, COORDINATOR, YOUTH PROGRAMS AND PELLETTIRI OWL'S NEST

When I became the Youth Programs Coordinator back in May 2008, I would always tell people I have the best job at the church. This statement still holds true for me, only now with the addition of being the Coordinator of the Pellettiri OWL's Nest program, I feel I have the best two jobs at the church! Now I have the chance to let you know what's been going on in both programs.

This past September, the 9:30 youth group changed its focus and supporting curriculum. The group, which used to be known as "the movie group," has now become the Social Justice group. Using a combination of two curricula from the UUA Tapestry of Faith curriculum resource center; *Heeding the Call: Qualities of a Justice Maker* by Nicole Bowmer and Jodi Tharan, and *Virtue Ethics: An Ethical Development Program for High School Youth* by Jessica York, youth are learning to become effective agents of change in the world as they develop qualities crucial to justice work and make intentional, thoughtful decisions.

The youth have begun to take a more active part in the various social justice activities in the church community and beyond. In fact, four of them are talking about attending the UU-UNO Spring Conference in April 2017 in New York. The theme for the upcoming seminar is "Interfaith Action to End Armed Violence," and is of intense interest to our youth. I hope you'll help them finance the journey by supporting the various fundraisers the group is planning, the first of which is hosting a vendor table at the Annual Craft Fair on Sunday, December 4th. We'll have handcrafted knitted items as well as homemade candles and stationery sets to offer. I hope you'll stop by the table and check it out!



It's hard to believe it's already been just a little over a year since the OWL's Nest program was implemented. During that time, I've worked with the San Diego Cluster Religious Education Directors to establish a list of trained Our Whole Lives (OWL) facilitators at all levels, completed a needs assessment survey for the San Diego Cluster, held an Elementary OWL Facilitator Training, applied for and received a Spirit Level grant for \$24,000 to purchase materials and curricula to make the OWL's Nest a central resource center for the cluster, and took the first steps to bring OWL classes to places outside of UU churches and communities.

The next OWL facilitator training will be for the Adult/Young Adult level and will be held in either late winter or early spring in 2017. Be sure to check the church publications, *The Window* and *First Words*, to keep up to date with plans for this training. Yes,

it's been a busy year and we aren't done yet. The goal to establish OWL classes all over San Diego County at all levels has yet to be met, but it's looking more and more attainable as more trained facilitators are added and the OWL family continues to grow.

This little OWL won't rest until everyone who wishes to participate in a comprehensive, positive, medically accurate, life affirming sexuality education program can do so wherever they may be in San Diego County. In gratitude for your continued support and encouragement, this OWL will keep flying and I hope to see you and talk with you sometime along the journey!

Bright Blessings,
Käthe Larick

JOIN US AND CELEBRATE THE SEASON!

HOLIDAY EVENTS

AT FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF SAN DIEGO

DECEMBER

2-Friday	6:00 pm	Tree Decorating and Carol Sing-Along: HC
3-Saturday	6:30 pm	Voices in Unity/Emerging Voices Concert: HC Tickets \$10 in advance/\$15 at the door. Youth under 18 FREE. Proceeds help support our Children's and Youth Choir programs, including the youth choir retreat in January where the youth learn new music and build a stronger community together.
6-Tuesday	7:00 pm	Blue Holiday Service: HC
10-Saturday	10:00 am	Tamalada. For time and place, contact Brenda Garcia : off-site
11-Sunday	9:30 & 11:30 am	December Music Service: HC Chalice Choir presents Daniel Pinkham's Christmas Cantata, while Rev. Ian reflects on the seasonal message "Be not afraid!"
11-Sunday	9:30 am	Musical Celebration - Our Lady of Guadalupe: SB
17-Saturday	6:30 pm	Winter Solstice Ritual & Worship: HC
24-Saturday	5:30 pm	Family Christmas Eve Service: HC
	8:00 pm	Candlelight Christmas Eve Service: HC
25-Sunday	10:00 am	South Bay Christmas Morning Service: SB
	11:30 am	Hillcrest Christmas Morning Service: HC Followed by Christmas Potluck: HC

For more information see our website at firstusandiego.org

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JANUARY GENEROSITY OFFERINGS

BY JOHN SCHAIBLY, CHAIR, LARGER UU CONNECTIONS MINISTRY TEAM (LUUC)

Each year, during the month of January, the Generosity Offering supports Unitarian Universalist (UU) organizations with whom our congregation has a special relationship. The groups are selected by LUUC members. Unlike our Social Justice Generosity Offerings that are collected for a whole month, each Sunday of January will support a different UU group:

January 1: Camp de Benneville Pines. Our UU camp in the San Bernardino mountains is loved by our kids and adults alike. This offering will go toward general maintenance to keep our camp beautiful and safe. We also encourage you to attend our All Church Camp there in June. See www.uucamp.org.

January 8: UU Service Committee (UUSC). This organization is the social justice arm of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Their economic justice work focuses on influencing local, statewide and national policy on workers' rights and raising the minimum wage. In extreme situations of natural disaster, armed conflict, genocide, forced migration, and systematic injustice they provide aid and pursue structural change. Their work on environmental justice focuses on influencing government policies related to the environment and mobilizing activists to hold government, agencies, and those accountable for water-rights violations. See www.uusc.org.

January 15: Black Lives UU (BLUU). The BLUU Organizing Collective based in Cleveland Ohio works to provide support, information, and resources for black Unitarian Universalists. They also work to expand the role and visibility of black UUs within our faith. This relatively new organization (a year and a half old) is supported by our Journey Toward Wholeness Team (also known as "Roar with Soul") and our Racial Justice Social

Justice Action Group. See www.blacklivesuu.com.

January 22: UU Justice Ministry of California (UJMC). The Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry of California is a grassroots organization committed to enabling UUs to participate in justice education, advocacy and witness; developing justice leaders; strengthening the justice ministries of congregations; and acting as a visible and credible partner in advancing justice in our state. This means volunteer-led and directed Action Teams have a lot of important (and rewarding) work to do. Action Teams keep congregations up-to-date on current national, state, and local legislation relative to their issues; provide opportunities through petitions, call-in campaigns, letter writing, and witness events for UUs and congregations to stand with impacted communities, and develop training materials for use at the congregational level as well as in UJMC's Regional Justice Trainings and annual statewide Walking the Walk Summit. See www.uujmca.org.

January 30 (and every 5th Sunday in 2017): Partner Church in the Philippines. Every fifth Sunday in 2017, the generosity offering will be received to support our Educational Scholarship Fund for our Filipino Partner Church in Malengin. Our support helps UU families send their kids to school and college to escape poverty.

Members of First Church have great interest in or have participated in the wonderful work of these organizations, and recommend that you support them generously during the month of January. If you can't make it to services for a specific offering, please send a check to the church with "generosity offering" and the name of the group you wish to support in the memo line. Thank you for your generosity.



TOM ANDREWS

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SERVICE COMMITTEE PRESIDENT TO SPEAK AT FIRST CHURCH



Tom Andrews serves as the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) President and CEO.

Appointed to the position on February 1, 2016, Tom is an extraordinary social change strategist who brings passion, savvy, and decades of experience. He brings a commitment to challenging the devastating impacts of global warming, the injustice of growing income equality, and the assaults on the rights and dignity of marginalized people throughout the world.

Tom is traveling around to different UU Churches to introduce himself, and to talk about some new programs UUSC has and what they will be doing in light of the election results. On January 8, he'll be in the pulpit at First Church. His sermon will tie into the January theme of Margins/Divisions and perhaps the Borderlands theme (which works well with the work UUSC is doing).

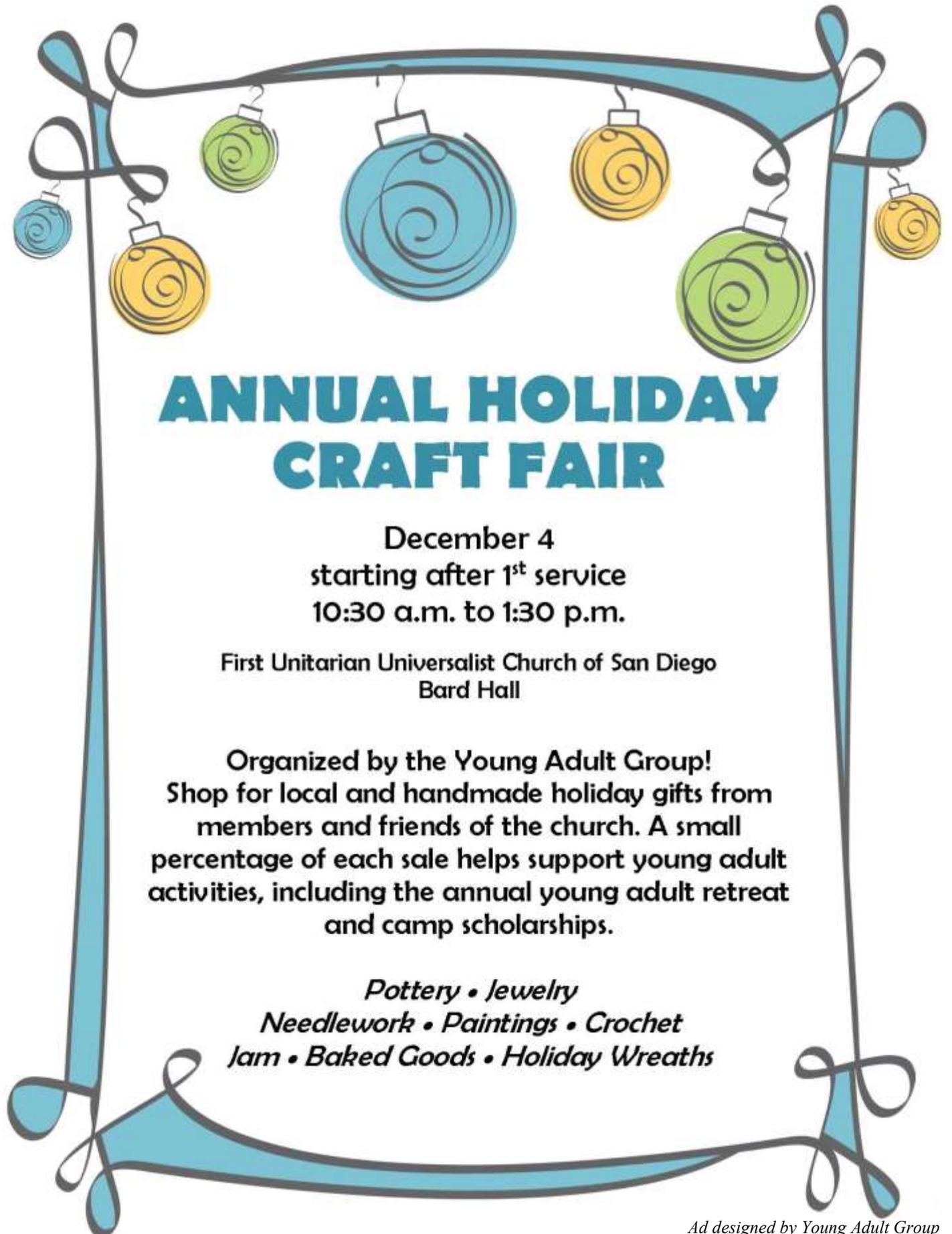
The UUSC advances human rights through grassroots collaboration. In more than a dozen countries throughout the world, the UUSC fosters social justice and works toward a world free from oppression. UUSC's innovative approaches and measurable impact—in

promoting economic justice, bolstering environmental justice, and protecting rights at risk—are grounded in the belief that all people have inherent power, dignity, and rights. Andrews previously served as president and chief executive officer of United to End Genocide since 2011, and has led the national Win Without War coalition since 2002. He represented the First Congressional District of Maine in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1991 to 1995, following 10 years of service in the Maine State Legislature. From 1995 to 2011,

Andrews was a senior advisor to the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs in Washington, D.C. He has worked to advance democracy and human rights throughout the world, including in Myanmar (also known as Burma), Indonesia, Cambodia, Yemen, Algeria, Serbia and Ukraine.

Andrews grew up on a farm in Easton, Massachusetts and moved to Maine to attend Bowdoin College where he earned a degree in Philosophy and Religion. A turning point in his life was the discovery of cancer in his right leg at the age of sixteen. "I made one of those classic deals with the Almighty: Let me live and I'll make it worth your while. I have literally been trying to keep my end of the bargain ever since." He currently lives in Massachusetts with his wife Gloria, son Hooper, and dogs Charlotte and Jacoby.





ANNUAL HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR

**December 4
starting after 1st service
10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

**First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego
Bard Hall**

**Organized by the Young Adult Group!
Shop for local and handmade holiday gifts from
members and friends of the church. A small
percentage of each sale helps support young adult
activities, including the annual young adult retreat
and camp scholarships.**

***Pottery • Jewelry
Needlework • Paintings • Crochet
Jam • Baked Goods • Holiday Wreaths***

Staff

Rev. Kathleen Owens, Lead Minister
Rev. Ian W. Riddell, Minister of Music and Worship Arts
Tania Márquez, Intern Minister, Young Adult and Campus Ministry Coordinator
Alix Klingenberg, Intern Minister
Rev. Jim Grant, Affiliate Minister
Robie Evans, Director of Operations
Dr. Melissa James, Director of Family and Lifespan Ministry
Käthe Larick, Youth Programs and OWL's Nest Coordinator
Daniel Ratelle, Chalice Choir Director
Lynn Mendoza-Khan, Children, Youth & Women's Choir Director
Lorelei Isidro, South Bay Music Coordinator
Andrea Newall, JUUL Tones Ensemble Director
Roy Attridge, Handbell Ensembles Director
Justin Murphy-Mancini, Organist and Pianist
Pam Bates, Development Manager and Scheduler
Brenda Garcia, Social Justice and South Bay Ministry Teams Coordinator
Jenner Daelyn, Membership Coordinator
Lori LeSage, Administrative Assistant
Connie Hayes, Bookkeeper / Controller
Tony Bianca, Program Assistant
Ray Evans, Maintenance
Mark Epler, Event Coordinator
Revs. Dr. Carolyn and Dr. Tom Owen-Towle, Ministers Emeriti

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South Bay Campus:

<http://www.firstuusandiego.org/uus-of-the-south-bay>

To view sermon video casts, click on these YouTube or Vimeo buttons:



Giving: <http://www.firstuusandiego.org/giving-overview>. Click on these Amazon Affiliate or iGive buttons for your online shopping and First Church receives a portion of the sales. Secure and private.



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