



December nUUzletter

Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of the
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Deadline for January Newsletter is December 15. Submit to MichDiano@gmail.com

From the Minister:

Silent night, Holy night, all is calm, all is bright.... It's perhaps the singular night in the Christmas/Hanukkah/Solstice season that is silent, holy, calm. In counterpoint to the consumerist season that our culture cultivates, from big box stores opening for business on Thanksgiving Day to Santa arriving in your driveway with a new luxury model of whatever, the notion of "Christmas spirit" especially has become a recipe for burnout, meltdown, and seasonal depression.

Recall that singular time in your history of holidays when you felt peaceful, hopeful, renewed. Who was present? Where were you? What did it smell like? What had you done to bring about this moment? What difference has it made for you over the years? How has it transformed the way you celebrate or don't celebrate the holidays?

Sometimes we're invaded with a sense of anxiety or sadness that we just can't explain. We can't analyze it away. I invite you to give me a call. Come on in and talk about it. Come on in and we can just hold silence. You are not alone in how you feel. You need not be alone with what you feel.

December at the congregation holds holiday happenings that are celebratory, from our Advent Blessing of the Animals the first Sunday of the month, to an all-congregation party at Claire Surovell's on the 16th of the month, to our Intergenerational Festival of Light on the third Sunday, on into a Christmas Eve candlelight service and a Christmas morning gathering for carols and poetry. Participate as you will, but consider above all that the story of Christmas is about the lonely birth of a child on a starlit night in an occupied country, and the story of Hanukkah is about oil burning far longer than anyone thought possible in the aftermath of a harrowing time in the history of a people.

May we light the candles of these holidays/holy days, lift our voices in a carol of the season, gaze upward at a starlit sky, and inhabit for a precious while the silence, the calm, the light—

Jan

There will be a meeting to formulate a preliminary UUCC budget on Sunday, December 11 at 9 AM. Committee Chairs and members: Please send your needs, wants and suggestions to Margaret Sellers (MCSELLERS@aol.com) as soon as possible, and certainly well before the meeting. We will all talk about it then. This is the best time to be heard!!! We are going places and doing big things next year.