



# DECEMBER UU NEWS

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Salina

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<http://www.uua.org>

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**YOU ARE INVITED AND WELCOME to join us for conversation  
with coffee and treats...the SERVICE BEGINS at 10:30 am**

## Sunday Forum on December 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 am

**What Does Being Alive Mean to You?** There is an African proverb: "*When death finds you, may it find you alive.*" Alive means living your own damned life, not the life that your parents wanted, or the life some cultural group or political party wanted, but the life that your own soul wants to live according to Michael Meade. Do you agree? Facilitated by Glen Lakes.



## Sunday Service on December 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am

**Prophetic Hope.** Rev. Dr. Mandy Todd of Kansas Interfaith Action (KIFA) will lead a service focused on prophetic hope and our call to usher in change in the darkest of times. You'll hear about what KIFA is doing in these efforts and how you can join in. A native of Kansas, Rev. Dr. Mandy Todd serves as the Director of Engagement & Development for Kansas Interfaith Action (KIFA). Mandy earned a BA from Bethany College in Lindsborg, a Masters in Theology from Iliff School of Theology in Denver, CO, and a Doctor of Ministry in Public Theology from Drew University in Madison, NJ, and she holds ordination in the United Church of Christ (UCC). In addition to her work with KIFA, she also serves as the Pastor Messiah Lutheran Church (ELCA) in Lindsborg. Mandy has over 20 years of experience working with communities of faith across Kansas and Colorado, as well as almost 10 years in public education.



## Sunday Forum on December 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 am

**Permission to Care.** Our goal is to explore are meant to protect us can sometimes our communities. I'm thinking we'll touch on temporary shelters, civic engagement, and participants to reflect on when rules help, step up to act courageously despite barriers. Facilitated by Miranda Bachman.



how rules, policies, and systems that unintentionally block acts of care in examples like food sharing, volunteer projects, and invite when they hinder, and how people

## Sunday Service on December 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am

**Visual Voices Artist.** Connie Burkett entered the professional workforce as an arts educator in 1986, serving for five years as Education Director for Salina Arts & Humanities and for twenty years as Director of the Kansas Alliance for Arts Education. Prior to that, she was a homemaker and community volunteer for nineteen years. During those included in several juried exhibits, movement workshops for schools motivated by a strong belief that to the creative, cultural, cognitive, benefits of art, music, dance, and drawing and painting in a variety of books, textiles, and 3-dimensional appreciates the problem-solving based and idea-based art and likes to experiment with a wide variety of techniques and processes. Fascinated by the ways that principles of design—such as pattern, contrast, balance, repetition, and movement—translate to human behavior and social systems, Connie continually tries to meet the challenge of effectively expressing those interconnections in her artwork.



**Sunday Forum on December 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:15 am**

**A Virtuous Life.** And what is a virtuous life anyway? Do you know anyone who is living a virtuous life? Does being virtuous help to make you wealthy? Will everyone like you if you are virtuous? Do you try to live a virtuous life? Facilitated by Glen Lakes.



**Sunday Service on December 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:30 am**

**Winter Solstice Celebration.** "This is the solstice, the still point of the sun, its cusp and midnight, the year's threshold and unlocking, where the past lets go of and becomes the future..." (from "Solstice Poem" by Margaret Atwood.) Today, during the shortest day of the year, help us celebrate into the light. UUFS musicians, poets and other creatives will present at this multigenerational service. If you, or your child, has a reading, poem, skit, song, or other talent that you would like to share in celebration, contact Barb Gutsch to get on the playbill.



*NOTE: Join us in person if you can! We will have the Zoom link on, but the zoom quality of this type of service is questionable.*



**Sunday Forum on December 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 am**

**Open Forum.** This is your opportunity to talk about spiritual, religious, political, humanitarian or even subjects that are flabbergasting. Facilitated by Glen Lakes.

**Sunday Service on December 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am**

**UU Bingo.** In past years, this service between the holidays of Christmas and New Year's has been a fun service of games and such. This Sunday, we'll get to know each other in ways that perhaps we have not known before. Be thinking about things that you know about yourself that others in the fellowship may not know and we'll play a game together to get to know you!



**IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS TO PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR THAT REFLECT THE LIFE AND GROWTH OF OUR SALINA UU FELLOWSHIP**

**The UU Fellowship of Salina Board of Directors** is:

President: John Kingsley

Vice President: Renee Martin

Secretary: Karin Cumming

Treasurer: Kim Morey

Member at Large: David Norlin

Member at Large: Rodrigo Carrizales

Member at Large: Tamara Von Fange

Member at Large: Dave Corl

Past President: David Hanson

The fellowship board meets once a month on the third Sunday after the service to discuss important items pertaining to our faith community. All members and friends are welcome to attend these meetings. Members are able to vote on issues that come to a vote during the meeting. Your voice and your vote are important to us! The **December board meeting will be on the 21<sup>st</sup>.**

### **Soul Matters Sharing Circles**

Soul Matters groups are taking a holiday break. Let Barb Gutsch (bjgutsch@cox.net) know if you are willing to step up and facilitate a new group after the holidays. Also let Barb know if you are wanting to join up with a Soul Matter sharing circle.

Find out more by following these links.

<https://www.soulmatterssharingcircle.com/>

Find musical inspiration on each theme by following our monthly Spotify lists:

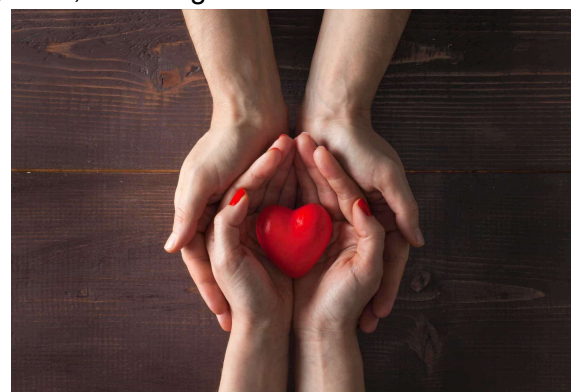
<https://www.soulmatterssharingcircle.com/spotify-lists.html>

Get daily inspiration on the monthly theme by liking our Soul Matters Facebook Inspiration Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/soulmatterssharingcircle/>



**UUFS Compassion Fund.** If you know of a Fellowship member or friend (person who attends) who might be in need of the Fellowship's support with a food card, cash, or through connections with a local agency, please contact one of our compassion fund team, Teri Harrington, Mona Hargrave, Dianne Neustrom and Barb Gutsch. We want the Fund to be active - with funds and other help coming in and going out. The purpose of the Fund is to show that we care and take care of each other.



### **Cards for Fellowship Celebrations and Concerns.**

Please let Teri Harrington know if there is someone that you believe could benefit from receiving a card from our Fellowship. She can be contacted by email at [teriyaki315@hotmail.com](mailto:teriyaki315@hotmail.com) or by cell phone at 785-342-4817.

### **How Can You Help Out? – Needs at our Fellowship.**

Please look for opportunities to help out our fellowship and contact a board member about the area that you'd like to help out or see a need...you can find a way to express your talents and creativity! Contact David Hanson ([dchanson46@att.net](mailto:dchanson46@att.net)) if you can help out on the **grounds**. Interested in becoming a **convener** for Sunday services? Want to know more about how a UUFS service is created? Contact Barb Gutsch ([bjgutsch@cox.net](mailto:bjgutsch@cox.net)) to find out more about our UU services.

**RE (Religious Education for the Youth) Teachers:** We need to start signups for mid-December going forward. If you are willing to take a week to spend the service with the children, please talk to Barb soon.

**UUFS RE and Childcare:** There will be RE and childcare provided on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> as usual.

There will be **NO** RE on Dec 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, though childcare will be provided if necessary. All ages are welcome to participate in the service on those dates.



**Podcasts:** Have you missed a service that you really wanted to attend? You can listen to a podcast of the service by going to the webpage at <http://uusalina.org/> and clicking on the Contact Us link. Let us know which service you would like to listen to and someone will get back to you with a resource for connecting to the service.



## NEWSLETTER SECTION FOR OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

### UU World Launches Digital Newsletter

Want to stay updated on the latest from UU World? You can now sign up for the magazine's free twice-a-month emailed newsletter, Wayfinder, which launches in October. As a Wayfinder subscriber, you will get the latest news and storytelling from UU World to help you chart a course that aligns with the Shared Values of Unitarian Universalism. Expect moments of insight, inspiration, joy, spiritual nourishment, and more! Sign up at the UU World website.

**Expand your Knowledge:** Take a class at the **UU Institute** (<http://uuinstitute.org>), a service of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and is administered by UUA Staff, underwritten by congregations' gifts to the UUA's Annual Program Fund. The UU Institute is an online learning community offering trainings and other learning experiences that support members, leaders and professionals in Unitarian Universalist communities. The UU Institute's trainings and other learning experiences include readings and video presentations that you can access online at your own pace, paired with discussion questions and activities you can share with others in "real time". Read and/or sign up to receive the MidAmerica Region newsletter: <https://www.uua.org/midamerica/news>



#### Months of the Year

January	February
March	April
May	June
July	August
September	October
November	December

**Sermon of the Month:** Each quarter an email will be received with the video links and a link to the PDF for each service for that quarter. Each video comes with elements listed in their PDF of the transcript as well being listed and linked in the description of each video on Vimeo. You will also continue to have access to the video and the video with captions on screen. You can use them in any order and at any time. Also you can always access all the videos at our [showcase](#) using the password **sermon2025**.

Our new UUA virtual hymnal, ***Sing Out Love***, is taking shape in beautiful ways and is available for purchase! Over 235 congregations have subscribed to *Sing Out Love*, and hundreds more attended our seven guided tours of the virtual hymnal (a recording is [available on Vimeo](#)). Our Song Selection Team continues to invite new music for *Sing Out Love*. If you—or someone you know—is a songwriter, please consider [submitting a song or two](#) to the hymnal. Ask Nyla for more information.

If you haven't visited [WorshipLab](#) recently, please check out its growing resources. (WorshipWeb's [Words for Worship search page](#) is filled with thousands of pieces of worship content, whereas WorshipLab is a spacious warehouse for worship collections, blog posts, and inspirational ideas for holidays like [Earth Day](#) and the [Flower Ceremony](#). **WorshipWeb** invites you to explore and celebrate the following:

#### Addiction & Recovery

In collaboration with the UU Addictions & Recovery Ministry Team, WorshipWeb has published [new resources related to addiction and recovery](#). We hope these offerings bring comfort, healing, and strength to all whose lives have been touched by addiction.

#### Upcoming Braver/Wiser series

Starting on October 22nd, Braver/Wiser will offer a 3-part series by Rev. Rina Shere about trauma, moral injury, and healing among military service members. ([You can subscribe here](#), if you don't already receive our Wednesday dose of courage + compassion.) As Braver/Wiser's Editor, I (Erika) am grateful for the opportunity to invite compassion and curiosity about how our UU theology responds to this form of pain.

## VISUAL VOICES GALLERY

First Friday Art Rush

**WHEN:** Friday, December 5, 2025, from 4:30-6 PM

**WHERE:** Visual Voices Gallery at UUFS (Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Salina), 901 Beatrice St, Salina, KS

**FOR MORE INFO:** [mneu@twinvalley.net](mailto:mneu@twinvalley.net)

We have as our guest artist, **Connie Burket**. The artist will speak about her work at 5 pm. We will be having her work showing through December. She will be our guest speaker at the Sunday morning service on December 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am.

Refreshments and treats to be served.

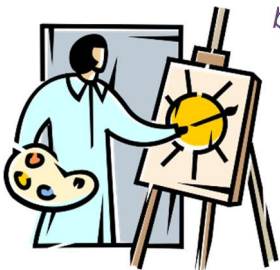
Connie entered the professional workforce as an arts educator in 1986, serving for five years as Education Director for Salina Arts & Humanities and for twenty years as Director of the Kansas Alliance for Arts Education. She is motivated by a strong belief that every child should have access to the creative, cultural, cognitive, and community-building benefits of art, music, dance, and drama. Connie's work includes drawing and painting in a variety of media, collage, handmade books, textiles, and 3-dimensional constructions. She enjoys and appreciates the problem-solving aspects of making both design-based and idea-based art and likes to experiment with a wide variety of techniques and processes.



ALL STRIPES TOGETHER  
iron oxide, beeswax, crayons on stoneware

Connie Burket

*Exhibitions at Art at UU – Visual Voices are determined by a committee, and change every two months. Artists interested in showing their two-dimensional work at Art at UU – Visual Voices can receive an application; please send an email to [uusalina@cox.net](mailto:uusalina@cox.net). Anyone can make an appointment to see the current exhibition by emailing same address as above. The work is also on view Sunday mornings during the Forum discussion group at 9:15am and the UU service which begins at 10:30am. All are welcome.*



Also, in the local art world, Summer announced and invited us to the Lindsborg artist studio tour on December 6<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. She will be showing and selling her work.

## You Are the Holiday Miracle

By Gwen Matthews 10/28/2022 © UUA UUWorld



As December opens up before us, we welcome in the gift of reflection. We turn toward our holiday celebrations and search for common threads of meaning.

We begin with Yule, the winter solstice, and we are invited to explore duality, cycles, and seasons, and to witness the Holly King being overcome by the Oak King. Yule reminds us that we all partake in the miracle of renewal.

Hanukkah, the festival of lights, commemorates a time of miracles when the faith of the Jewish people sustained them to reclaim their holy temple and keep the light of the menorah burning for eight days.

Christmas, the celebration of Jesus' humble birth in a manger, offers us to revisit the miracle of birth and the desire to find saviors to heal the scars of humanity.

Here, in our church, you are just as much a holiday miracle as the turning of the earth, as persistence and dedication to a faith, as the creation of each new life. We see the love you give to others, the space you create to hold one another's joys and sorrows, and the generosity and spirit you entrust to this community.

You are the holiday miracle. This community is one of miracle-makers.

**All of who you are is sacred. All of who you are is welcome.**



Unitarian Universalism



The mission of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Salina:  
To provide a place for personal spiritual growth within an open and affirming community, actively promoting peace, reason, and the transformation of our world.