

THE UNITARIAN CONGREGATION OF TAOS

Bulletin Board: March 2017



1st Sun,	Mar. 5	<i>One Step Closer</i> , Rev. Munro Sickafoose
Wed,	Mar. 8	7 p.m. – Women’s Group (<i>Marsha, Creatings@taosnet.com</i>)
2nd Sun,	Mar. 12	Circle topic: <i>Inner Voices & Conscience</i>
Wed,	Mar. 15	4:30 - 6:00 p.m. – Men’s Group (<i>Bob, rsilver65@gmail.com</i>)
3rd Sun,	Mar. 19	<i>To Tell the Truth</i> , Rev. Gary Kowalski
4th Sun,	Mar. 26	Circle topic: <i>Sacred</i>

**Services & Sharing Circles begin 11:00 a.m. at the Masonic Lodge,
124 Camino de Santiago, at intersection with Gusdorf Rd.**

General Announcements

Welcome to Rev. Munro Sickafoose. We are pleased that Rev. Munro Sickafoose has joined Rev. Gary Kowalski in shared ministry for our congregation. We are very fortunate in this little outpost of Unitarian Universalism to have two such fine ministers.

Munro gave his first sermon as our official co-minister on Sunday, February 5. The topic was “Active Hope, Sacred Anger, and Radical Joy.” Rev. Sickafoose used the work of Joanna Macy to explore ways we might marshal our energy, talents and skills for the betterment of our world.

We start by acknowledging our feelings of despair over the last few weeks, says Munro, then we ground ourselves in gratitude: “Gratitude, for being alive in this beautiful world, in this incredible time and place filled with miracles and life and love. A world we owe our lives to, a world we want to save because we love it.” Through the process, called the “Work that Reconnects,” we always return to gratitude.

The Rev. Munro Sickafoose is a community minister serving Santa Fe, Taos, and the surrounding areas. His ministry focuses on healing the human relationship with the Earth, and preparing our communities for the many serious challenges we face in the decades ahead.

Reflections

February 5th was my first appearance as co-minister for the small-but-mighty Unitarian Congregation of Taos, something I’d been looking forward to for some time. While I’ve spoken before at UCOT as a guest speaker, the shift to a position of regular ministry is a meaningful one for all of us.



For me, it represents the next step in a career path I began a decade ago, and a new opportunity to learn and grow, not just as a minister but as a human being. You have generously welcomed me with open minds and hearts. I’m looking forward to learning from each of you.

And we begin together at a time when a great many challenges face us — as individuals, as a community, as a nation, and a species. Our social, political, and environmental situations are uncertain at best, and in need of all the care and attention we can give them. If there is one thing I have learned in my years on Earth, it is that the circle is far wiser than I will ever be, and that together we are stronger than any one of us alone.

~Rev. Munro

IN-REACH/ OUT-REACH OPPORTUNITIES

We are recruiting new members for the Outreach Committee. Our current task is deciding the 2017 Budget — a determination of how the \$3,000, which is the allotted amount set by the overall church budget, will be spent in our community. We meet monthly on the 4th Thursday of the month. If you are interested, please contact mimi.owensby@gmail.com.



Music Committee News

Our guest musician for March is Christine Autumn (vocalist), March 19.

There will be hymn practice on the 1st and 3rd Sundays with Martha Grossman at 10:30 am. Please join whenever you can — your participation is much appreciated!

General Announcements, cont'd from page 1

He has been deeply involved with the indigenous spiritual path known as the Red Road for many years. He trained as a wilderness rites-of-passage guide at the School of Lost Borders, and has been leading groups and individuals in the wild since 1996. He trained at the Ojai Foundation as a facilitator in the Way of Council and has spent hundreds of hours in talking circles with people from all walks of life.

After attending the First Unitarian Church of Portland, where he and his wife Susanna were involved in teaching adult programs, Munro decided to pursue a Masters of Divinity degree at Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, California. He graduated from Starr King in 2013, and was ordained as a Unitarian Universalist minister by the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Santa Fe in April of 2016.

Munro is still an "Army brat," having moved all over the United States and Europe while growing up. He attended high school in El Paso, Texas, and spent most of his adult life living in the Southwest—except for a few years on the West Coast—before he and his wife Susanna moved to Santa Fe in 2012.

You can read the Rev. Sickafoose's full sermon (along with others) at our website, UUTAos.org, under the tab Worship and Connect, then Past Sermons.

Bob Aubrecht Resigns

It is with sadness that we accept Bob Aubrecht's resignation from the board of trustees for the Unitarian Congregation of Taos. He has served us all well, and we appreciate his steady hand. Thank you Bob, for all you've done to steer the congregation over these last six years.

Sunday, March 5, 11:00 am

One Step Closer

Rev. Munro Sickafoose

One of the great sermons in our religious heritage was given in 1828 by the great Unitarian preacher William Ellery Channing. The title of that sermon was "Likeness to God".

In that sermon, Channing asks this question: Whence do we derive our knowledge of the attributes and perfections which constitute the Supreme Being? How did he answer? How might we answer?

Sunday, March 19, 11:00 am

To Tell the Truth

Rev. Gary Kowalski

Fake news and the proliferation of "alternative facts" have sown confusion into our national discourse. Lying is a regular practice in law enforcement. Cheating scandals have become commonplace in sports, science, and higher education. But when, if ever, are lies and deceptions justified? Unitarian Universalists have historically placed a premium on being truthful. There is a reason why.

HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY WISHES TO...

7 Jim Shultz

24 Brenda Clark

If your name is not on the birthday list yet, please contact the Admin, Welcome Lindsey: welcomelindsey@gmail.com.



At this extraordinary time in our nation's history, we are called to affirm our profound commitment to the fundamental principles of justice, equity and compassion, to truth and the core values of American society." So begins the recently published Unitarian Universalist Declaration of Conscience.

Confronted with a national and international rise of divisive, reactionary politics, UU members are not the only ones called to affirm progressive principles and join with communities of common concern. Even here in the shadow of the Sacred Mountain, many are looking for groups with which to share their angst and activism. For the past couple of months, the Unitarian Congregation has experienced an increase in "locals" visiting our services and circles for the first time.

While growth for its own sake is not a goal, this is an opportunity to embrace those who share our values and expand our reach for principled action. In that spirit, please welcome our visitors, encourage them to return, let them know about the many ways they can become involved with our congregation. Our website at uutaos.org and the Unitarian Universalist website at uua.org are good sources of information, and our board members are always happy to answer questions.

If you want to sign your own name to the UU Declaration, go to <http://connect.uusc.org/I/103112/2017-01-17/gpgn2>.

(Thanks to board member Chuck Doughty and to co-minister Rev. Munro Sickafoose for bringing the Declaration and UUA President Peter Morales's letter to our attention.)