

DECEMBER 2011

Hope

Mission of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Santa Clarita

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Santa Clarita Valley enhances the lives of members through spiritual development and active service in the community. We offer a diverse, non-dogmatic spiritual home to all who share our values as defined by the Unitarian Universalist Association. We provide a liberal religious voice, a social justice presence in the Santa Clarita Valley, and a stimulating and supportive environment to help our members on their own spiritual journeys during all stages of their lives.



In **DECEMBER** we explore the light of HOPE so necessary as we traverse the dim landscape of the winter season and of our own fears, doubts, regrets, and limitations. In this darkest of months we explore and celebrate the many gifts of Hope to be found at this time within the world's religious traditions.



For Christians Hope is found within the lowly manger, illuminated by a star; within the long-awaited child called Prince of Peace.



For those who look to the skies, to the earth and its seasons, Hope is found in many glorious and subtle signs that Winter's long night is giving way to Spring. Hope is celebrated and shared through these

kinds of stories, through generosity of time and spirit, through reflection upon and recommitment to values of Peace, Love, Compassion, Respect, Integrity, Responsibility, Gratitude and Service.

As this year comes to a close, may you take time to savor all the gifts of the season, and of the Unitarian Universalist tradition by which Hope is nurtured, near and far.

Invite a friend, bring a favorite dish, and share a special evening of fellowship and worship for all ages at 5:00 pm on Saturday December 24th at the Newhall Senior Center. Candle-light Service @ 7:00 pm.

What symbols of Hope do you recognize in this season?

(Try to doodle or draw your response)



For Jews it is found within God's love and abundance, manifested through the miracle of light that burned for 8 days.

Unitarian Universalists of Santa Clarita Valley



2011

Website: <http://uuofscv.org>

While there are many paths to spiritual growth, it helps to regularly set aside time to think deeply about our experiences and how they relate to our core values. This year each month's worship services at UUofSCV lift up a particular theological theme for your reflection. You may also choose to engage with that theme by reading some of the books recommended here, watching movies related to the theme, discussing and/or journaling your thoughts, creating art, poetry or music, or engaging in service. May your insights unfold gently and joyfully, inspiring acts of love.

In Awe & Gratitude, Rev. Stefanie (RevSteffi@gmail.com)



HOPE Journaling

Albert Camus wrote:

*"In the midst of winter I found in me
an invincible summer."*

What metaphors for Hope can you think of?

Are your hopes ever disappointed?
If yes, when & why?

What are you Hopeful about right now?

Who knows about and supports your Hopes?

How do you keep that Hope alive?

How do you encourage Hopefulness in others?

Imagine
all the people
living life
in peace.
You may say
I'm a dreamer,
but I'm not
the only one.
I hope
someday
you'll join us,
and the world
will be as
one.

(John Lennon)

HOPE reflected in movies, books, songs and organizations:

MOVIES:

I Am – the Documentary (NA)
Wizard of Oz (G)
The Color Purple (PG-13)
Great Expectations (R)
What Dreams May Come (R)
It's a Wonderful Life (G)
How the Grinch Stole Christmas (G)
Forest Gump (G)

BOOKS FOR ADULTS:

The Hope: A Guide to Sacred
Activism. By Andrew Harvey
The Anatomy of Hope. By Jerome
Groopman
Hope Will Find You. By Naomi Levy
A House for Hope: The Promise of
Progressive Religion. By John
Buehrens

BOOKS FOR CHILDREN:

Light the Candles: A Hanukkah
Book. By Joan Holub

Christmas Day in the Morning. By
Pearl S. Buck
The Shortest Day. By Wendy Pfeffer
My First Kwanzaa Book. By
Deborah M. Newton
Chocolate I Hope YOU Dance. By Mark
Sanders

SONGS:

I'll Rise, Ben Harper
Somewhere Over the Rainbow, Judy
Garland
Don't Give Up, Peter Gabriel
Wonderful World, Lois Armstrong
Circle of Life, Lion King
I Believe I Can Fly, R Kelly

ORGANIZATIONS NURTURING

HOPE: Unitarian Universalist
Service Committee, Heifer Project,
Doctors Without Borders, Family
Promise...(which others?)

READINGS ABOUT HOPE

**FROM THE SINGING THE LIVING
TRADITION HYMNAL:** 535, 648,
666, 488, 461, 560, 470, 610

Quotes to ponder:

Learn from yesterday, live for today,
hope for tomorrow. The important
thing is not to stop questioning.
Albert Einstein

My great hope is to laugh as much as
I cry; to get my work done and try to
love somebody and have the
courage to accept the love in return.
Maya Angelou

We must accept finite
disappointment, but never lose
infinite hope. Martin Luther King Jr.

I find hope in the darkest of days
and focus on the brightest. Dalai
Lama

The kingdom of God is within you.
Luke 17:21

The suspense is terrible. I hope it
will last. Oscar Wilde

When I die I hope to go to Heaven.
Whatever the hell that is.
Ayn Rand

To live without hope is to cease to
live. Fyodor Dostoevsky

Hope is like peace. It is not a gift
from God. It is a gift only we can
give to one another. Elie Wiesel

Be truly glad, there is wonderful joy
ahead. 1 Peter 1:6

NEXT MONTH'S THEME:

In **JANUARY** we explore **JUSTICE**:
what it is, where it is to be found,
where it is lacking, why it is a
religious imperative and what we
each can do to contribute to it's
presence on this earth.

Look for next month's Resource Flyer
and attend our Sunday services at
10:30 am (22900 Market St.,

Have a poem, drawing, book or movie recommendation for next month's issue on "JUSTICE", or for inclusion in an upcoming worship service?
Want to help organize a movie outing or group discussion or share information about a service project relating to a planned monthly theme?
Contact the Committee on Shared Ministry or Rev. Stefanie (RevSteffi@gmail.com) by the 15th of this month.