

Unitarian Universalist Church of Davis (UUCD) Theme Journal – February–Perseverance

Perseverance is one of the most important character traits we can cultivate. The consequences of courage don't endure without it. Only in the movies does someone begin piano lessons and—within a few scenes—become a star. We'd fall asleep in a movie that showed the musician practicing for countless hours. There would be thousands of wrong notes played, frustration, and self-doubt. But, in a true story, the successful pianist would always return, start again, and discover some new ability. Meaningful discoveries and success happen because of the humble and lack-luster choice to persevere.

Last March, I took a traumatic fall and perseverance became important to me in new circumstances. The damage from my fall included a spectacularly shattered shoulder, broken arm, and a badly shaken sense of my physical self. The surgery was complicated and I joined those who have metal joints, pins and screws holding them together. I gained a new appreciation for the people who are experts at staying focused and steadfast in the face of physical limitations.

The use of my arm and hand returned in small increments, but only with the diligence of a dedicated professional musician. On my personal Facebook postings, I shared when major goals were reached. Reaching above my shoulder was the equivalent of the piano star playing the last flourish of a composition. The postings rarely addressed the boring everyday story of physical therapy. Through the weeks and months, my right hand could “walk” a few inches higher on the wall, the arm moved in a larger arc, and my hand could hold more weight.

Not everyone is able to improve their movement and strength, but the concept of persistence applies to how we care for friendships, nourish the community within our congregation, and continue to live a message of justice in the world.

That which is precious to us will always take our ongoing care and attention. This month, consider what deserves your persistent care.

– Rev. Beth Banks, Senior Minister



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Spiritual Practice **The Committee on Ministry** (Louise Bettner, Hiram Jackson, Liz King, Elli Norris, Lisa Oakes, Jeannette Robertson) invites you to weave the theme of Perseverance into your daily life and spiritual practice:

The journey of perseverance begins with fire, with passion for our cause, with hope to change things.... As the journey continues, passion dissolves into weariness. The obstacles are larger than we expected. The insanity is more than we can bear. But still we travel on, one foot in front of the other.... Perhaps holding true to the vision and not losing our way is enough for one lifetime.

—Margaret Wheatley

What passion leads, or has lead, you on? What keeps/kept you putting one foot in front of the other, to persevere? What have you given—and what have you received—because of your perseverance?

Adult Religious Exploration & Perseverance

This month as we explore the perseverance, I am struck by the many ways people in our community have pushed through in difficult circumstances. We all need tools and encouragement as we go through our daily lives, even without terribly difficult situations. Our journeys are not straight paths of success and happiness. Inevitably, there are highs and lows, detours, unclear directions, and forks in the road. It is not the form of our journey that is important, nor is it even the destination: the most important thing is sharing our journey with others so that we might learn and grow together. I invite you to consider building-up your the tools for your journey through Adult Religious Exploration. The sessions will introduce you to new ideas, explore how historical figures reacted to their times, and encourage personal reflection.

Check-out the offerings http://www.uudavis.org/PDFs/lifespan_learning_catalog.pdf and sign-up by emailing re@uudavis.org

— Rev. Morgan McLean, Assistant Minister for Congregational Life



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Adult RE: UU History Mystery Dinner

In the beginning of December, Reverend Morgan asked what I wanted to teach as an adult religious education class in the spring. I had planned since I started to teach some variation of a UU history class. It began as a standard class, morphed into a storytelling series, and finally, it has become a UU History Mystery Dinner. Rather than teaching interested individuals about historic Unitarian Universalists myself, the historic Unitarian Universalists will be time traveling to today to tell us about their own lives. Note: I have not figured out time travel, rather some members of UUUCD have agreed to play these historic characters for a night of stories, a bit of mystery, and a whole lot of fun.

I wanted to give you all a sneak-peak into the lives of one of our characters, Olympia Brown. Olympia Brown lived from 1835 until 1926, was a suffragist, a Universalist, and the first fully ordained woman minister. Our theme for the month is Perseverance and Olympia Brown is featured in a Children's Curriculum called *Moral Tales*. The curriculum shares the following story "When Olympia Brown was born, women weren't allowed to vote. Women weren't allowed to have any say in who was elected president or senator or mayor of the town. She traveled all over the state of Kansas in a horse and buggy giving speeches to convince people that women deserve the right to vote. She wrote hundreds of letters. She spoke to the representatives and senators in Congress. She marched in parades. In November of 1920, when Olympia was eighty-five years old, she voted for the very first time." Olympia Brown for me is the embodiment of perseverance. She did not stop. She did not give up. She kept going, even when things seemed impossible.

To learn more about Olympia Brown and other historic UUs, come to the UU History Mystery, March 9. More details soon. Please email me with any questions. campusministry@uudavis.org — Danielle Lindstrom, Intern & Campus Minister

Sunday Worship, 9:30 & 11:15am



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Share the Plate: Davis Media Access receives 1/2 of Jan. Sunday offerings. *Commercial media is often costly, doesn't invite participation, and represents a narrow spectrum of voices, owned by a very few companies. Non-commercial community media fills a critical need, teaching both digital literacy and media production, and helping to highlight the voices of non-profits, community activists, marginalized voices, and perspectives outside the mainstream. Davis Media Access (DMA) fills this need in Yolo County, partnering with schools, local governments, community groups and people like you! To learn more about how to listen, watch and support, please visit <http://davismedia.org>. Davis Media Access: Strengthening Community Through Media for over 25 years. <http://davismedia.org/> Check UUCD; memo: Offering.*

February 4, 9:30 & 11:15am, *The Promise & The Practice*; Rev. Beth Banks; Autumn Labbé-Renault, Worship Associate. As a young woman, Toni Morrison edited the writing of black authors for Random House Publishing. In an interview with fiction writer, Junot Diaz, Morrison explained what it was like to read the works of black authors during those years. She also read the work of the former slave and abolitionist, Frederick Douglass. She could sense the presence of someone "holding the materials:" slightly reshaping his stories so white abolitionists would find the messages challenging, but easier to hear.

What would it be like if a UU worship service centered entirely around the voices and experiences of Black Unitarian Universalists? What truths might we hear, however difficult? What might we learn? How might these Black UU leaders teach us to be better allies, better siblings in faith, and even better citizens in our community?

Many voices will be sharing stories in this worship. This is a service of truth and a step toward hope and healing.

To prepare for this service, consider reading these *UU World* articles by Mark Morrison Reed:

- ♦ <https://www.uuworld.org/articles/black-hole-white-uu-psyche>
- ♦ <https://www.uuworld.org/articles/empowerment-tragedy>

February 11, 9:30 & 11:15am, Youth-led Worship

February 18, 9:30 & 11:15am, Celebrate UUCD Weekend: This is Holy Ground Rev. Beth Banks, Rev. Morgan McLean & Dani Lindstrom; *The Saturday before (Feb 17) we beautify the buildings and grounds together, then share an evening of Pizza and Pizzazz (pot-luck + "You bring the talent" show).* Sunday, we shift our focus to another way we care for each other. The Sunday service speaks directly to our hearts through story, images of our congregation in action, and a surprising ritual. It's about the unique change that happens when we give to each other. Each element of the weekend could be a joyful stand-alone. Sunday morning is the culmination of feelings about giving and receiving.

February 25, 9:30 & 11:15am, *Try and Try and Fail and Fail Again*; Dani Lindstrom; Tamara Range, Worship Associate. How our theology helps us persevere.

Listen

Download or stream edited Sunday services at www.uudavispodcast.org

Growing Our Perseverance as Unitarian Universalists

Pacific Western Regional Assembly:

Stories of Hope, Courage, Resistance and Resilience, April 27-29, Portland, Oregon.



To persevere we need inspiration and the encouragement of others. This year, people from twelve states in the Pacific Western Region are gathering in Portland, Oregon to be inspired, learn, and share ideas. There are workshops where we will hear messages of success and hope. There will also be inspiration and vision for the future.

Congressperson Pramila Jayapal is the keynote speaker, April 28. Jayapal is the first Indian-American woman to be elected to the U.S. Congress. Before being elected to represent Washington State's 7th District in 2016, Representative Jayapal was an immigration and labor activist in Seattle. Her writing has been featured in *The New York Times* and *The Nation*. She has been written about in *Mother Jones* and many other publications.

Rev. Dr. William Barber is the Sunday worship speaker April 29. As an NAACP leader and civil rights activist in North Carolina, Barber led that state's "Moral Mondays" protests, beginning in 2013. The founder of *Repairers of the Breach*, an organization formed to train religious leaders across the country in social justice work, Barber is currently leading a new "Poor People's Campaign." His most recent book is *The Third Reconstruction: Moral Mondays, Fusion Politics, and the Rise of a New Justice Movement*.

Rev. Susan Frederick Gray, the newly elected president of the Unitarian Universalist Association, shares her emerging vision for the future of the UUA and our wider movement.

Registration and more information: <https://tinyurl.com/UUA-PWR18>

UUCD scholarship applications Due by February 28. Please send your requests to the office at office@uudavis.org. UUCD Members given priority, as will those who wish to become leaders at UUCD or the larger movement. We hope to encourage new members and those who have not attended Regional Assembly. All attendees are encouraged to go to the leadership modules. Scholarships cover the \$180. registration fee (may go as high as \$300, depending on funds).

Application for \$180 UUCD Scholarship to Attend Pacific Western Regional Assembly, April 27-29, Portland, Oregon Applications are Due February 28, 2018 to office@uudavis.org

Please Print / Type

Name	Mailing Address
Best Phone	Email
I am a UUCD Member <input type="checkbox"/> Yes / <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, how long have you been active at UUCD?	
What areas of leadership interest you? (Priority given to those who wish to be leaders. Examples include, but are not be limited to: serving on the Board, Committee on Ministry, Stewardship, Membership, Social Justice leadership, Religious Exploration Council.	
Have you previously attended Regional Assembly? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes / <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Is there anything you'd like to share about yourself?	
Do you have additional questions?	

Applicants will be notified by March 5, 2018.