

**BE THE CHURCH**

*Protect the environment.*  
Care for the poor.

**Forgive often.**

**Reject racism.**

**Fight for the powerless.**  
Share earthly and spiritual resources.

Embrace diversity.

**Love God.**

**Enjoy this life.**



*A Note From Our Interim Pastor:*

Greetings, beloved ones!

New week, new mini-survey! Link is [HERE](#). And the last one for the foreseeable future. Read on for more on all of that.

This past week has held a lot! And many of you are holding a lot. Pain, sorrow, longing, hope, healing, hunger. Maybe all of the above. Church is for building community that can safely hold each other. Church is for holding those who don't know about (our) church, but desperately need to be held – because maybe they never are. The season of Lent, which began Wednesday, is for taking the time and space to recognize and more deeply appreciate that which brings life, love, and solidarity – the things that last. Lent is for better realizing all that which we can't take with us. For those who do it, "giving something up" for Lent isn't about ascetic self-flagellation or finding an excuse for a lifestyle dietary fad, but a way of removing some thing/s that obscure our view/s of what truly matters, liberates, and brings life. This is why, on Ash Wednesday, we are reminded of that which is most essential: our own bodily matter. We aren't meant to freak out at the phrase "from dust you were made, and to dust you shall return," but rather to better appreciate how both elemental and timeless our nature is. As I often say in the lead-up to communion, you are the stuff of stars, and of the earth. You are stardust. You are, each of you, holding a unique part as a blessed combination of particles that make up a **person**, in the billions-year-long cosmic story of re/forming stardust. WOW! And we get to hold each other in that truth. Much more on Lent in the weeks ahead. But first! Speaking of wow...

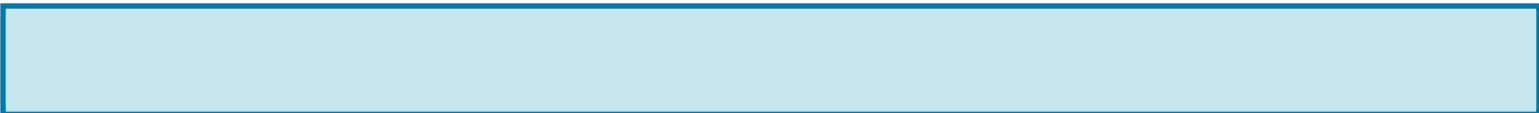
**IN THIS ISSUE...**

Note From Our Pastor	1
Note cont.	2
Lenten Reads	3
Creation Care Ministry	4
Jambalaya Cook-off	5
Gatherings	6
Prayers & Celebrations	7
March Calendar	8

I'm still dancing with delight over the fun, food, and fellowship so many of us had on "Fat Tuesday" with our Jambalaya Cook-off and more (and no, not because my recipe "won" : ) ). So many thanks to our Congregational Life Committee for putting on such a wonderful event for our community. To me, and I hope many of you, it was a wonderful opportunity for that growth many of you seek this year: building thriving relationships and increased participation in church life. And wow again! Almost **\$2000** was given by our community for investment in our Hospitality Program. We'll see where the numbers are when February is over, but I do believe that after only two months we are already halfway there in terms of the funds needed to meet our commitment in 2020 to those living in our care here at Rincon. That is truly wonderful. I can't wait to see who brings home the Golden Spoon next year! I am already preparing for defense of my crown.

**IMPORTANT:** As announced this past week, starting this Sunday, March 1, we will begin holding informal conversations between services throughout the six Sundays of Lent. These conversations will take place

Continued on Page 2



Continued from Page 1

in the Fellowship Hall from (roughly) 9:15-9:55am. All of you are invited! **The goal** of these relational conversations is to talk through the 3 big questions that the Local Church Profile of the UCC asks: **Who Are We, Who Is Our Neighbor, and Who Is God Calling Us To Become.**

The only thing you're asked to bring is yourselves. Your articulation of faith and your "why" for Rincon. There is no agenda except to have notes taken on what meaningful takeaways your conversations generate. The first two Sundays will center on the first question, the next two on the second, and the last two on the third. There will be guiding prompts from myself and your Church Council leadership for getting started. Our collective hope and plan is that these conversations build off the mini-survey process and open up a path forward for creation of a team that will lead the church in filling out the Local Church Profile. Our current hope is that the team will be formed by the end of April/beginning of May. (And remember, the Local Church Profile, whenever it's completed, is the resource posted online for prospective settled pastors to find and apply for to see if we see a mutually good "match.")

I want to express deep thanks to you all for the time, energy, and honesty you've poured into the mini-surveys these first two months of 2020. The answers and data you've provided are invaluable for this process, and the entire Interim Ministry season we are in together. **There is one more mini-survey, linked in the electronic version of this newsletter.** Please take the time to sit with it, answer it honestly, and help us pivot well to this big new part of the story you are telling as Rincon Congregational UCC.

Here in Tucson...we're in the desert. These next 40 days of Lent, we are EXTRA in the desert, contemplating our call, relinquishing what is unnecessary for survival, resisting the temptation of false and temporal comforts, and praying about what comes next on our ministry road. Fear not. We are with Jesus in the desert. Jesus is with us, always.

Peace and grace –

Rev. Seth

P.S. Please do fill out this week's (final) mini-survey. Read each question carefully. Sit with it. See what comes up, honestly, from your experience. Answer accordingly. Thank you so much!

Letter from the Pastor

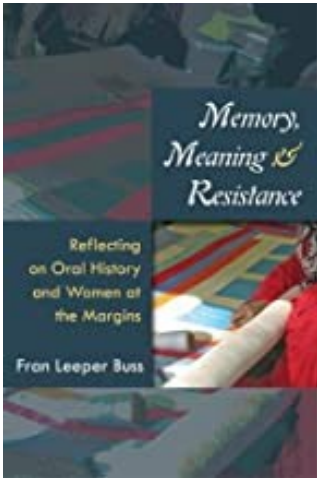
**Lenten Conversations  
9:15 AM  
Fellowship Hall**

**The goal** of these relational conversations is to talk through the 3 big questions that the Local Church Profile of the UCC asks:

- **Who Are We**
- **Who Is Our Neighbor**
- **Who Is God Calling Us To Become**



**Lenten Reads from Rincon UCC Library**



Books for children, youth and their families are gathered by the children's space in our Sanctuary under the organ. During Lent the books present parables and stories that respond to questions about God- some are parables that Jesus taught, some are prompted by questions from children like: "Does God Have Toes?" and all reflect the universal quest for spiritual understanding. Please take a book home with you.

Featured adult reading for Lent: *Memory, Meaning & Resistance: Reflecting on Oral History and Women at the Margins* by Fran Leeper Buss, an oral historian, whose collected testimonies reveal the importance and strength of the lives of the women Fran documented: a traditional Mexican American midwife, a Latina poet and United Farm Worker organizer, an African American freedom movement organizer.

This book is for amateur historians, as well as anyone who wants to hear the compelling, beautiful and spirit affirming accounts from voices that too frequently are ignored.

An oral historian, Fran sheds reflects on the compounding effects of gender, race, ethnicity and class on women's lives. She organizes these personal testimonies thematically by chapter, e.g. agency, activism, religion so as to illuminate both the particular and the collective meanings of these vital memories and resistances.

Fran Buss, Ph.D, has published other oral histories and is currently writing a new book. She is a member of Rincon UCC and volunteered with the Rincon Migrant Shelter, when her health permitted. Fran and her husband, Dave, led us in an excellent UCC anti racism study a couple years ago.

On the table in the Narthex you will find a copy of the book to borrow and return.

**2020 Lenten Devotional Book**



A few copies of the devotional have been generously donated by our Creation Care Ministry. Copies will be available in Fellowship Hall and the Narthex. First come, first serve.

Climate crises caused by global warming. Strident polarization in communities. Gaping income disparities between the richest of us and the rest of us. The rampage of racism and militarism.

The existential and everyday threats we face are daunting. With faithful people across the ages, we cry out to God for deliverance ... not only pleading for God to act, but seeking the courage to let God act through us.

*RINCON CONGREGATIONAL UCC MISSION STATEMENT: - Grounded in openness, with respect and justice for all, the Mission of Rincon Congregational Church (United Church of Christ) is to be a welcoming and progressive Christian community that believes in a God who is more about grace than judgment. Inspired by meaningful worship and teaching, we strive to be God's heart and hands in action, seeking to be living examples of Christ's abundant love.*

Lenten Reads





Environmental Day at the AZ Capitol

On February 5, I took the day off work to join more than 350 citizens from around the state to visit the capitol in the annual trip organized by the Arizona chapter of the Sierra Club.

We heard from a few speakers—a Chicano woman, a young man, a Navajo woman—who reminded us of the importance of mobilizing around the health of the environment. We sat in on a House committee hearing. We, along with many other visitors, were recognized at the beginning of the Senate session. Most importantly, we visited with our state legislative representatives.

My group from LD10 had about 15 minutes with Senator David Bradley. The highlight for me was watching the young people from Sky Island High School engaging Sen. Bradley in conversation, then us adults talking with the young folks after the senator had to leave. They were knowledgeable, articulate, and passionate with creative ideas. The excitement is for young adults and older adults to work together for the health of our beautiful state.

Representatives Kirsten Engel and Domingo DeGrazia were unable to meet with my group, as they were tied up in a House Judiciary Committee meeting. Their staff person reached out to us immediately afterward, and Reps. Engel and DeGrazia met with a small group of us this past Saturday.

All of the state reps from my district are active in trying to protect our environment. *Do you know where your senator and representatives stand? Are you communicating with them?*

Someone asked me recently whether I thought going to the capitol made any difference. My answer: It's important to continually make my/our voice heard to our representatives. Not doing so is not an option. **We are** our democracy.

For more details on environmental and voting rights issues in play in our state legislature, feel free to talk with me. Or check out <https://www.sierraclub.org/arizona/legislative>, where you'll find legislative updates and a legislative tracker.

Re-wilding RUCC Habitat

The Creation Care team, thanks to approval by the Justice and Witness Ministry Team and Church Council, will move ahead on restoring much of our campus to native Sonoran habitat. A generous grant from the UCC's Neighbors in Need offering for this year is also a boon to this project, as well as to our Creation Care ministry in general.

The plan is to begin work very early in April on the northwest corner (at Craycroft/Burns), removing gravel and planting vegetation.

Stay tuned for work dates, work opportunities, and other ways to be involved!

Rev. Karen MacDonald  
Creation Care Coordinator

**BE THE CHURCH**

*Protect the environment.  
Care for the poor.*

**Forgive often.**

*Reject racism.*

**Fight for the powerless.**

*Share earthly and spiritual resources.*

*Embrace diversity.*

**Love God.**

**Enjoy this life.**



**SAUSAGE AND SHRIMP JAMBALAYA** – Taken and modified from *The Homesick Texan's Family Table*, by Lisa Fain. (I highly recommend the entire cookbook, and especially her first one, *The Homesick Texan*.)

**General notes from Pastor Seth:**

- I tripled the recipe for the Jambalaya Cookoff, but **quadrupled the garlic, dried thyme, dried oregano, and smoked paprika.**
- I **added in 1.5 tsp of a Cajun seasoning** I had as well in the tripled recipe.
- Also, my onions and bell peppers were extra large. I used bacon grease instead of vegetable oil, and three tablespoons at that, in part because the onions and bell peppers were so large and needed extra for covering/sautéing

(and also because bacon wins every time). I used a green, red, and orange bell pepper.

- My canned diced tomatoes were the 'fire-roasted' kind that taste so good.
- I couldn't find raw Andouille to cook, so I did mostly pork bratwurst and a bit of spicy Italian sausage. Looking at the picture and re-reading the instructions ('crisp'), I realize she probably meant the precooked Andouille sausage that is readily available in stores, including the ones I checked. I did a pound of sausage per recipe-multiplication, which is slightly more than she calls for.
- I went all-in on wild-caught Gulf shrimp (Key West).
- If you triple (or even double), make sure you have a large enough pot! Like really large.
- What follows is the basic recipe as written in Fain's cookbook, which says it serves 4 to 6. Enjoy!

**Ingredients**

- 1 tsp vegetable oil or bacon grease
- 1 yellow onion, diced
- 2 jalapeños, stemmed, seeded, and diced
- 1 bell pepper, seeded, stemmed, and diced
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 4 pieces (12 to 14 ounces total) Andouille or other smoky sausage, sliced into rounds
- 2 (14.5-ounce) cans diced tomatoes
- ½ cup chopped fresh parsley
- 1 tsp dried thyme
- 1 tsp dried oregano
- ¼ tsp cayenne
- 2 cups chicken broth
- 1 cup rice
- 1 pound medium shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 1 tsp smoked paprika
- 4 green onions, green part only, chopped
- salt



**Instructions**

In a 4-quart pot or large, deep skillet, heat the oil over medium-low heat. Add the onion, jalapeños, and bell pepper, and cook, occasionally stirring, until the onions are translucent and the peppers are softened, 7 to 10 minutes. Stir in the garlic and sausage, and continue to cook, occasionally stirring, until the sausage begins to crisp, about 5 minutes more.

Add the tomatoes (do not drain the cans), parsley, thyme, oregano, cayenne, chicken broth, and rice. Stir until well-combined, turn the heat up to high, and bring to a boil. Then turn the heat down to low, cover the pot, and cook until the rice is tender and has absorbed a lot of the liquid, 20 to 25 minutes.

Remove the lid and stir in the shrimp. Cook until the shrimp is pink. About 5 minutes. Stir in the smoked paprika and green onions, and then adjust the seasonings and add salt to taste. Serve immediately.



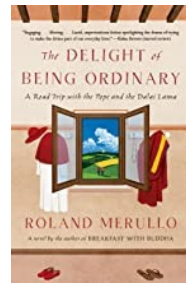
**Primavera Meal Prep**— Primavera Meal Prep will be **Tuesday, March 24th** at 3:00pm. Volunteers prepare a meal in the Rincon kitchen for the Catalina House transition housing unit run by Primavera. The meal is delivered to the Catalina House by a volunteer. For more information or to volunteer contact Ann Geiger at 520.529.6223.



**Refreshment Hosts**— By preparing & serving simple treats and beverages after worship we provide the opportunity to visit with one another and welcome guests. New volunteers are always welcome! Please contact Ann Geiger 520.529.6223



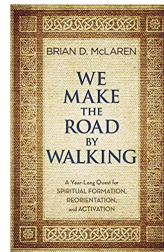
**Casa Maria Feeding Program**—Every four weeks we purchase supplies and make about 1,600 sandwiches for the Casa Maria Free Soup Kitchen. **March 14th at 8:00 AM.** A soup-making volunteer is also needed on each Sunday following each Saturday sandwich making date. This task is completed at the Casa Maria soup kitchen. For more information contact Judy Hubbard at 520.790.8471.



**A COMPANY OF READERS**  
Rincon's book group meets on the fourth Monday of each month at 3:00 pm in a participant's home. **The March 23rd book selection is The Delight of Being Ordinary: a Road Trip with the Pope and the Dalai Lama by Roland Merullo .**  
**Meeting place: Nancy Weddle's home.**  
Contact Ann Geiger at (520) 529-6223.



**Hatha Yoga**  
**Monday's at 5:30pm**  
**in Fellowship Hall**



**PASTOR'S BOOK GROUP**  
**Wednesdays**  
**9:15am – 10:15am**  
Room 12 of sanctuary building  
We are reading and discussing **We Make The Road By Walking** by Brian D. McLaren.

**Benefit Concert for AIDS**  
**Friday, March 20, 2020**  
Swinging@AIDS—Monterey Court

Swinging@AIDS Benefit Concert on the outdoor stage on Friday, March 20, 2020, from 7-9pm, featuring the Heather "Lil' Mama" Hardy Band, at Monterey Court, 505 W Miracle Mile. Tickets are \$20, and can be purchased online at EventBrite.com and search for "TIHAN" in Tucson.



**Thursday Evenings**  
**7:00pm in the Sanctuary**



**WORSHIP SERVICES**

8:30AM in Fellowship Hall

10:00AM in the Sanctuary

**SPREAD THE WORD**

Like us!  
Share us!

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

or

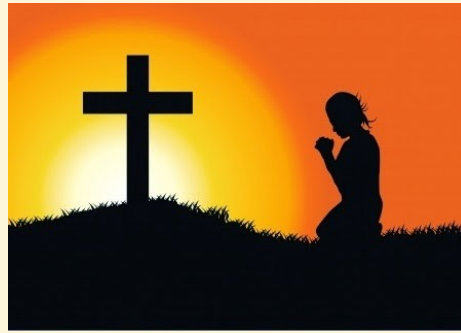
<https://www.instagram.com/RinconCongregationalUCC>

And also be sure to check out our website: <http://www.rinconucc.org/>



Celebration of Life for  
**Felix Schoenberger**  
Saturday, March 21  
1:00pm in the Sanctuary

**PRAYERS & CELEBRATIONS**



**ON-GOING CARE**

- Loen Arrington
- Anne Bailey
- Fran Buss
- Joy Fagerberg
- Judy Fischer
- Pat Gilbert
- Jim Harper
- Charlie Kadolph
- Rich Lamoreaux
- Terri Ridzelski
- Carl Schrorer
- Minta Keyes' brother (Jon)
- Ina Merson's brother (David)
- Carol Peterson's parents (Doris & Donald)
- Beth Shelby's sister (Carol)
- Karla Ulichny's friend (Noah)

**DEATH**

Felix Schoenberger



**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

- 3/3 Fran Buss
- 3/6 Lucille Habeck
- 3/7 Cathie Seifert
- 3/13 Karen Webster
- 3/16 Linda Johnson
- 3/19 Larry Hawkins
- 3/19 Marion Harlow
- 3/22 Shannon Thorn
- 3/22 Kathe Padilla
- 3/24 Pat Gilbert
- 3/25 Rich Lamoreaux



**MARCH ANNIVERSARIES**

- 3/22 don-E & Kim Merson

**Childcare Attendant:**

Ashley Kendrew

Children are an important part of our community and are encouraged to remain in worship with their families. Books and arts supplies are provided in a special zone of the Sanctuary. A child care provider is on hand to help assist as needed.



