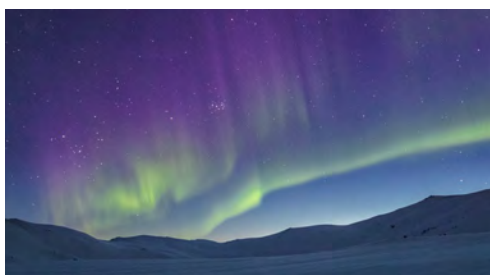




The Flaming Chalice

THEOLOGICALLY DIVERSE • RADICALLY INCLUSIVE • JUSTICE CENTERED

Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church | December 2021 Newsletter



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday 11–4pm;

Wednesday 9:30–3pm;

Thursday 9:30–3pm

To meet with the minister for pastoral care or to discuss congregation life, please call the church office for an appointment.

office@starrking.org

For pastoral care, please reach out to Rev. María Cristina via email or phone (617)895-9267.

22577 Bayview Avenue
Hayward, CA 94541
(510)581-2060

starrking.org

facebook.com/StarrKingChurch

Parish Minister

The Rev. Dr. María Cristina
Vlassidis Burgoa
minister@starrking.org

Board President

Roy Dickerson
daesworkgd@comcast.net

Newsletter

Kelly and Nathan Heigert
newsletter@starrking.org

DECEMBER 5

Advent and a Little Bit of Christmas Too

Rejoice! Join the Starr King Singers for a joyful holiday musical service.

–Co-led by *Lea Casini, Mileva Saulo Lewis, David Longfellow.*

DECEMBER 12

Las Posadas

A service in solidarity with immigrants and refugees.

We recommit to being a Sanctuary for all in search of a welcoming community.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17, 6:00PM

Join us for an outdoor caroling procession around the neighborhood culminating in a COVID safe indoor community gathering to trim the tree, play games, and continue singing. All are welcome! Bring a friend!

DECEMBER 19

Christmas Pageant featuring the Starr King Singers and our SoUUlful Family Ministry children. Come join the shepherds, angels, kings, and queens as they re-enact the nativity. –Co-led by *Rev. Maria Cristina and Lorie Miller.*

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 7:00PM

Winter Solstice

Throughout history, societies across the world have held festivals and ceremonies marking winter solstice, the day of the "sun's rebirth." Spiritually, it's a time to honor both the light and the darkness. We will gather for a contemplative service with songs, readings, reflections, and a ritual to set our intentions for the new season.

–Co-led by *Rev. Maria Cristina and Emily Watkins.*

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve

Join us for a lovely candlelight service with carols and readings that convey the spirit of Christmas.

DECEMBER 26

Guest Speaker TBA

WHAT'S INSIDE

3 From the Minister

6 Peace and Justice
Action Team

8 SoUUlful Family Ministry

10 Ongoing Activities
and Birthdays

November Highlights

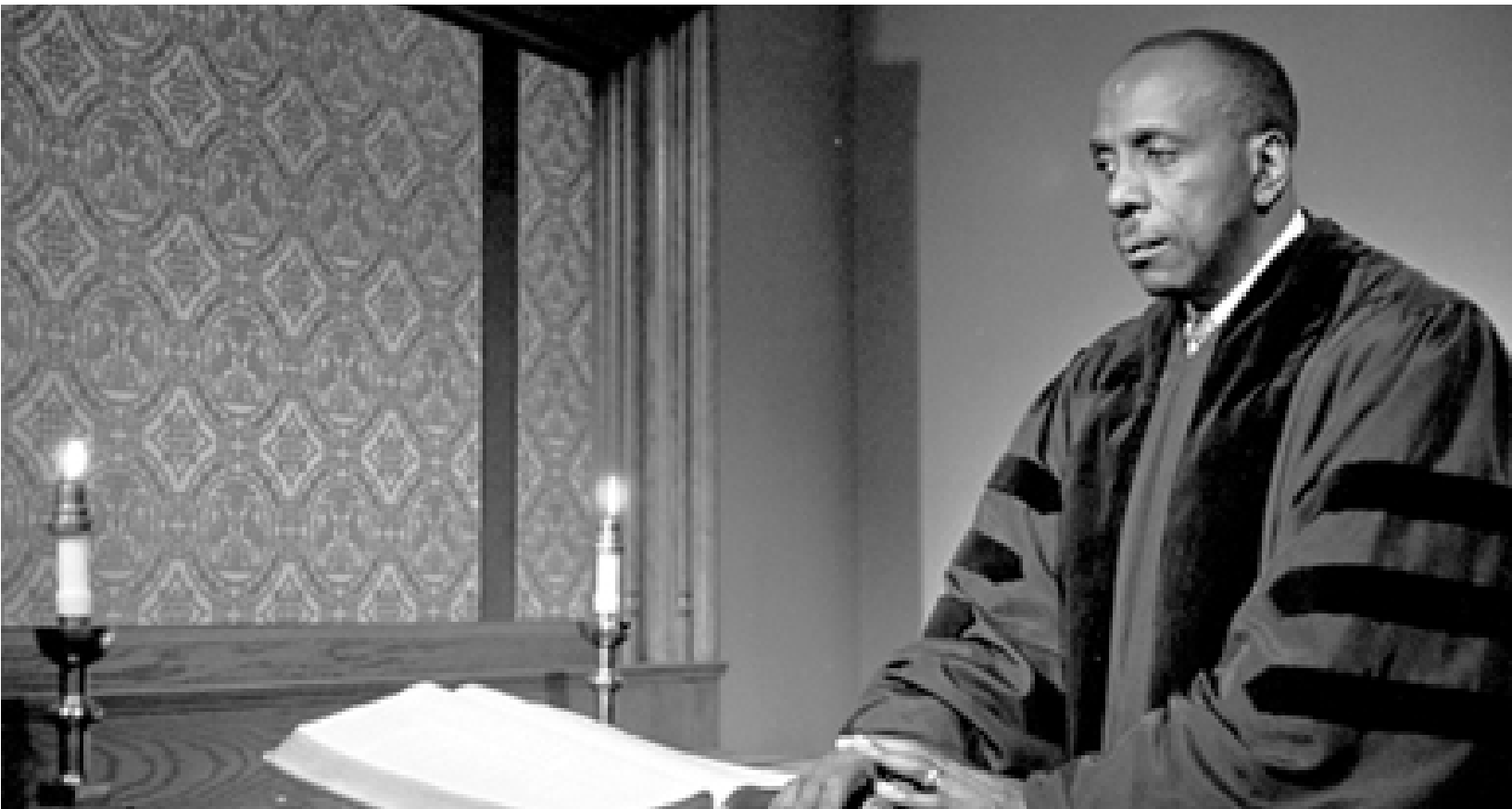


From the Minister

Now The Work of Christmas Begins

When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart.

By Howard Thurman-Author, philosopher, theologian, educator, and civil rights leader.



From the Minister

Las Posadas

Las Posadas: A Beautiful Latin American Tradition

Friday, December 17th at 6:00pm

(In Person-Observing COVID safety Guidelines)

I remember the evening of December 10, 2018, when we gathered to celebrate our first Las Posadas at Starr King UU Church. The invitations had been sent out, the songs had been rehearsed, and the food and hot chocolate awaited hungry pilgrims. We had no idea if people would show up. How would this new tradition be received? And slowly, as the sun went down, more and more people arrived.

As I was lighting the luminarias by the entrance, a couple came through the gates and excitedly announced that they were neighbors and wanted to join us to learn more about Las Posadas and to be in community. As it got darker, we lit our candles and what a sight to see children of all ages donning angel and shepherd costumes! As we processed towards the first house up the hill, at one point I looked back and saw this magical vision of dozens of people walking together and singing by candlelight: "Paz, queremos paz, y libertad en este mundo!/Peace, we want peace, and liberty in this world!"

As we continued our walk around the neighborhood, a mother and her three children stood in their doorway, marveling at the sight and smiling. We made an impromptu stop and without a second thought, performed our songs and connected with this family. We hugged, exchanged greetings and blessings, and invited them over to church for dinner.



From the Minister

Las Posadas (cont.)

This was the spirit of Las Posadas where no one remained a stranger. The doors of our church and of our hearts were wide open to welcome friends and neighbors. Our fellowship hall exuded hospitality and warmth with families decorating the tree, children building gingerbread houses, making decorations, singing Christmas carols, and participating in the traditional ugly Christmas sweater contest.

Beloveds, I hope that you will join us again this year for Las Posadas on Friday December 17th at 6:00pm. Together, let us light up the night, share holiday cheer with our neighbors, and express our solidarity with all seeking a welcoming community.

Let us once again open the doors of our hearts and our church to let in the light and the warmth of community.

With Gratitude and Love,

-Rev. Maria Cristina



Peace and Justice Action Team

Selected Notes

NOTICE: NO MEETING IN DECEMBER.

OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE JAN. 9 AFTER CHURCH.

Meeting Agenda: Nov. 14, 2021

I. Welcome All!

II. Chalice Lighting

III. Action Areas presented by Action Leads:

a. Updates

b. Actions to consider (PJAT; Congregation; beyond our walls) and why

c. Antiracism Aspect

d. Voting Rights

e. Climate Justice: *Collecting as many public comments as possible via VISION petition by Dec. 21. Link for Public Comments: https://actionnetwork.org/letters/no-drilling?source=direct_link&referrer=group-350-bay-area-action*

f. Community Partnerships: *Kids Against Hunger Service Event: <https://kahbayarea.org/how-to-help/join-a-packing-event/dec-9-5-6-30-pm-starr-king-uu-church-1754/register>*

g. Indigenous Solidarity

IV. OTHER: Church newsletter articles about what we're doing; Social media discussion group; Movie nights

V. Reflections, gratitudes, and closing.

Full minutes from the latest PJAT meeting can be found here: https://docs.google.com/document/d/13YzeI8TNbuma4XeckCaUO7e_x47IULM76wVPMeYme2Q/edit

December Updates

Full notes can be found here: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1re4wcjopolbn2WH3KscnjyOBU6TH7n9O5FO2EWeGpM0/edit>

Peace and Justice Action Team

STARR KING MOVIE NIGHT: "GATHER"

JANUARY 14, TIME TBA, VIA ZOOM

Join us for a virtual movie night in January! This incredible film documents the growing movement among Native Americans to reclaim their spiritual, political, and cultural identities through food sovereignty.

GATHER

THE FIGHT TO REVITALIZE OUR NATIVE FOODWAYS



SoUUlful Family Ministry

November Highlights

Starr King SoUUlful Family Ministry

The fun never stops. We continue to provide an hybrid program providing both a recorded service and a in person church service. Our Starr King grounds have taken on a different look. The children have been experiencing out door living. A camp site with tents, fire pit, camp kitchen, clothes line/washing tub and an alligator bridge. Around our fire pit, we enjoyed hot chocolate, discussing what we were thankful for. We also had several drumming circles too.

"Food for All" food drive was an success. Because children learn through play, our children explored the meaning of giving and providing food for those who don't have enough with our "Food for All" store in the class room. We decided that anyone who is hungry, should be able to get something to eat.

We ended this month with a Happy Hanukkah gift bag delivered to the children's homes, containing chocolate coins and a dreidel.

Happy Heart Circle Time

We started off the month with exploring what Honor feels like. Its a special feeling our hearts have. Speaking of Hearts, we discovered how our hearts look like when we share and be thankful for the people in our lives. Lastly, we enjoyed Hanukkah and the Festival of Lights, embracing, family, friends and the joy we received from the candles' light.



SoUUIful Family Ministry

November Highlights (cont.)

Family Projects

We kept the families busy with creating a personal star of honor, nurtured each other with a delicious banana roll-up pop and playing a family game of finding the same. Good times.

Gratitude

I am so grateful for all the support SoUUIful Family Ministry receives.

- Lavon for delivering the family project bags and for the special deliveries of the Hanukkah gift bags.

- Rev. Maria Cristina for organizing the gift bags

- For all of you who contributed to our food drive. Thank you, Terri Owen

- The class at church could not go on without our special volunteers:

Lea C.

Laurie Mathews

Donnie Rett

Kelly Heigert

Nayela Reynoso

Mireya Reynoso

Amy Pete

Diane Meyerson

Glen Jacob

Bless It Be

—Lorene Miller, SoUUIful Family Ministry Coordinator



Ongoing Activities

Starr King welcomes all church interest groups and committees to meet in-person at the church either inside or outside the facility. If your group has been meeting by Zoom, it may continue to do so, by discretion of the group. All groups meeting in-person on the Church grounds should continue to observe COVID safety protocols by:

- Wearing masks
- Practicing social distancing
- Refraining from serving and sharing refreshments

We applaud your continued participation in SKUUC activities.

Evening Meditation	First Thursday of the month, 7:00–8:30pm, every Wednesday after, 7:00–8:30pm, on Zoom. Open to all. Contact: Diane Meyerson
Small Group Ministry	Contact sgm@starrking.org for more information.
Board Meeting	First Thursday of the month, 7–9pm on Zoom. Open to all. Contact: Roy Dickerson
Peace and Justice Action Team	Second Sunday of the month after worship (after a 15-20 minute break) in a hybrid model via Zoom using the same link as the service.
Family Storytime	(On hold) Every Monday 6:30pm on Zoom. Contact: Dr. Rev. María Cristina
Adult RE	(On hold) Second Tuesday of the Month from 11–12 noon on Zoom. Contact: Mileva Saulo Lewis
Choir Practice	(On hold) Meets every Sunday from 9–10:15am in the Fellowship Hall. Contact: Lea Casini



December Birthdays

December 2

Nancy Bonner-Benson

December 12

Austin Klausmeyer

December 16

Henry Sprague

December 7

Mary Lou Schuler

December 13

Guadalupe Perez-Middleton
Zelma Nuñez-Borja
Stuart Fink

December 29

Glen Jacob