

## **This Morning in Worship**

### ***The Holiday Music Concert: Navidad Nuestra* by Ariel Ramirez**

**Presented by Music Director Mark Daugherty, a Musical Ensemble, and the USG Choir**

What do we know of our southern neighbors and how they celebrate the Christmas holiday?

*Navidad Nuestra* is a suite of pieces about the birth of Jesus composed by an Argentinian composer, Ariel Ramirez. Based on dance rhythms from that country, the pieces are melodic and sweet, expressive of a traditional religious faith. Celebrate with us as we listen to music from south of the border.

*Learn more about Christmas in Argentina on page 2.*

The poinsettias you see in the chancel this morning are in honor of our wonderful children in the Spiritual Development (Sunday School) classes, past, present, & future! A joyous holiday season to them all!



*We thank all the folks who do a little or a lot to make every Sunday at USG meaningful, beautiful, and welcoming. So many people contribute. Below are some of those people.*

Worship Associate: Jeffrey Jaeger

Sound Technicians: Bob Williford, David Ward, James Buch

Videographer: Jeff Smith

Ushers: Lynne Kalish (Lead Usher), Maggie Chapman, Sandy Capps, and Ingrid Brown

Instagram Posters: Caroline Bright and Joel Bright

Welcome Table: Maggie Chapman

Order of Service Collators: Barbara Dowdall and Parvathy Menon

Sexton: Mike Rogers

## **This Sunday in Fellowship & Calls to Action**

**After the service, you have opportunities to...**

- **Enjoy refreshments and a welcome brought by Village 3.** *Folks bringing food, please remember to label items containing nuts.*
- **Make a wreath or a swag in the Greens Workshop** after the service, upstairs in the Edna Jones Room.
- Take time to look at the insert from the **BLUU Box**. Interested in learning more? Engage the BLUU Box with others today at 12:00pm in the Sullivan wing.
- Then stay for the **Ending Racism Committee** meeting at 1:00pm.
- Order your **poinsettia** TODAY! Last chance! See page 5.
- **Be a holiday angel** to a PIHN family. Select an ornament of a request from the tree in the Dining Room once it goes up.
- Return at 5:00pm today for...



*(turn the page)*

## Our Sunday evening BREATHE program on

December 8, from 5:00-6:30pm features...

Leader Michelle Stortz with ***Wrestling the Monsters: You vs. Desires and Cravings***. Dealing with your desires and cravings can feel like wrestling a monster. We'll talk about strategies, strength, support, and, ultimately,

how to befriend the monster. For more information and teacher bio, please go to [usguu.org](http://usguu.org)>> Spiritual Development>> Center for Mindfulness at USG. *Fee: None required; suggested dana of \$15-20.*



## Christmas in Argentina: 'Feliz Navidad!'


The main Christmas celebrations take place on Christmas Eve. Many Catholics will go to a Mass in the late afternoon. The main Christmas meal is eaten during the evening of Christmas Eve, often about 10pm or 11pm. It might be served in the garden or be a barbecue... At midnight there will be the sound of lots of fireworks. People also like to 'toast' the start of Christmas day. Some people like to go to midnight services, but others prefer to stay at home and let off fireworks and then open their presents under the tree. More people also go to over- night parties and nightclubs....Another Christmas Eve tradition involves 'globos', paper decorations with a light inside that float into the sky (like Chinese Lanterns). The sky is filled with them on Christmas Eve after midnight.

Information at [whychristmas.com/cultures/argentina.shtml](http://whychristmas.com/cultures/argentina.shtml)

Our ELEVATOR is accessible from all three floors:  
outside the Daskam Room on the third floor; off the Sullivan rooms on the second; and  
off the Committee Room on the first.

## Our Text-Giving Option Via Breeze, our Church Management System

To give a pledge or contribution via text, please do the following:

1. Send text to this 10-digit Text Giving number **215-608-2660**
2. In the message field put the amount, a space, and the fund you wish to donate to. (Fund = Share The Plate (STP) or PLEDGE. Pledge is the default.) For example: 25 pledge (\$25 would be donated to pledge payment) or 25 STP (\$25 would be donated to go to our Share The Plate of the month).
3. When using Breeze, MAKE SELECTIONS by using the up and down arrows to scroll. 
4. Press send.
5. First time givers will be prompted to provide their payment method via a secure web page.
6. For future giving, simply send a text with the amount and fund you wish to give, and it will process automatically

## Next Sunday before the service, come early so you can...

- **Meditate in the Grove or Meditation Room, 9:15 - 10:20am.**  
Meditation, reading, dharma and sharing are offered in Sullivan 3 on the First and Second Sundays of the month between 9:15 and 10:20am. All are welcome to join in quietly. On the other Sundays the space is open for those who choose to come and sit.
- Please contribute to USG's monthly collection of food to support St Vincent de Paul's Food Cupboard. Leave your donations on the carts in the kitchen.
- Bring in donations of coats or jackets for our annual Coat Drive!

## Upcoming Events

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### POWER presents A Day of Racial Justice

**Tuesday, December 10, 12:00 - 8:00pm**

Join POWER at Rodeph Shalom in Center City for a day of Racial Justice Lecture and Conversation programming with Amanda K Gross!

Come to one or more of the programs:

- Luncheon - White Women Get Ready - 12:00 PM
- Afternoon Session - Afromations & Analysis: Lessons in Anti-Racist Intergenerational Youth-Focused Organizing - 1:30 PM
- Evening Session - The White Police Officer in my Upper Right Shoulder: Healing and the Impact of Multi-Generational Trauma in the Body - 6:00 PM

More information and links to register and RSVP are at [USGUU.ORG](https://usguu.org)>> News and Events>> Upcoming Events>> December 10.

# POWER

### Fundraiser Dinner for FUMCOG's Sanctuary Families held at USG

**Friday, December 20, 6:00-8:30pm**

The Thompson and Reyes families will be in Sanctuary at FUMCOG for another Christmas. USG will host a Fundraiser Dinner for them on December 20. The families will provide Jamaican and Honduran food and Christine Thompson is bringing her grandmother's Jamaican bread pudding. Please bring your family and join us for holiday cheer and song. Suggested donation is \$15.



### The EarthSpirit Circle invites you to join its annual WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION

**Sunday, December 22**

We will gather at 6:00pm; the ceremony starts at 6:15pm. Dress warm (we will be outside), bring a drum if you wish, and bring a dish and/or drink to share. After the ceremony and fire wheel, we will enjoy a pot-luck dinner in the dining room of the church. Questions? Contact [earth@usguu.org](mailto:earth@usguu.org)



## **And of course we hope to see you on Christmas Eve!**

**Family Christmas Eve Service:  
*It's So Bright! A Contemporary Christmas Pageant*  
Tuesday, December 24, 4:00pm**



Join us for a fresh take on the heart-warming story of the first Christmas. Our children and youth are starring as cast and crew, and Music Director Mark Daugherty will lead us in song. There will be lots of opportunities for the congregation to sing, participate and catch the spirit. Young children can also participate without rehearsals! Contact Ryan Hurd today, [dsd@usguu.org](mailto:dsd@usguu.org), if your children are interested in one of the bigger roles with spoken lin

**Christmas Eve Cookie Reception  
Tuesday, December 24, 5:00- 6:00pm**



On Christmas Eve, bring some favorite cookies for sharing. Celebrate the season with our entire congregation at 5pm, between the 4pm and the 6pm Christmas Eve services. If you can assist with the reception, please contact Carolyn and Celeste in the office ([usgadmin@usguu.org](mailto:usgadmin@usguu.org).)

**Christmas Eve Candlelight & Carol Service: *Miraculous Birth*  
Tuesday, December 24, 6:00pm  
Rev. Kent Matthies with Music Director Mark Daugherty & the USG Choir**



Come celebrate the holy birth of Jesus. Come celebrate the sacred birth of the universe. Come celebrate that every birth is a holy birth. After all, Einstein said, "There are only two ways to live your life: as though nothing is a miracle, or as though everything is a miracle." Christmas helps us to mindfully birth and celebrate awe-inspiring love, courage and hope.

# Ways to Give in This Season of Giving

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## Holiday Angel Tree

The Angel Tree in the Dining Room will be decorated with requests to Santa from PIHN\* families. Choose an ornament, fulfill the request, and then bring in your unwrapped gift by Sunday, December 22. During Fellowship Hour, we will wrap the gifts for delivery. Thanks to Deb Kish-Silver for again organizing this traditional giving.

*PIHN is the Philadelphia Interfaith Hospitality Network.*



## Winter Coat Drive

**Sunday, December 8 - Sunday, December 29**

So that others can stay as warm as this fellow, please bring in donations of warm winter outerwear - coats and jackets - for distribution in our community through PIHN's network and Whosoever Gospel Mission. The coat collection barrel will be in the vestibule by the name tag boards starting on December 8.



## Share The Plate Collection on Christmas Eve

Half of our Christmas Eve collection will be given to the Philadelphia Interfaith Hospitality Network, which is dedicated to helping homeless families find permanent homes. Long a USG community partner, PIHN has a 92% success rate of families remaining homed. Click [here](#) to donate online or wait until the Christmas Eve collection plate is passed.



## Adorn the Mitten Tree

The Mitten Tree will be in the Sanctuary on Christmas Eve, and everyone is invited to bring in warm woollies- scarves, mittens, gloves, ear muffs - to adorn it. If you are unable to come to either Christmas Eve service (4:00 Family Service, 6:00 Candlelight Service), you can hang your warm woollies on Sunday, December 29. On Monday the gifts will be taken to PIHN for distribution.



## Spiritual Development Offerings

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### Racism Book Study

**Monday, December 9, 7:30pm** (Please note corrected date.)

In September, we began reading *Stamped from the Beginning* by Ibram Kendi. For December 9, we will be reading the fourth session: "W.E.B. DuBois." All are welcome. Please do the reading before the session. Contact Treva B at [bookstudy@usguu.org](mailto:bookstudy@usguu.org).

### Exploring Elderhood - *All in the Family*

**Friday, December 13, 2:00 - 4:30pm**

A distinguished poet and writer will present a fitting program for all of us: *Age as a Creative Experience: Our Deep New Phase of Life, A Poetic Forum & Dialogue for Exploring Diverse Perceptions*. The poet's name is Michael Whelan and ...he is Gerry Whelan's big brother! This program is one that he has presented to rave reviews elsewhere. He will put you to work doing a bit of writing yourself.

Michael has been a spiritual seeker for all of his life and has chronicled his journey in a book of poems about his on-again off-again relationship with God entitled "After God". Please make an effort to be with us to welcome Michael to Exploring Elderhood. Oh, and bring goodies to eat, drink and share!



### Small Group Ministry

Throughout the year, you are welcome to join any Small Group Ministry group with openings. Please visit the Small Group Ministry page at [USGUU.ORG](http://USGUU.ORG) for more information.

### Everyday Spiritual Practices

**Second Saturdays, 10:30am - 12:00noon at USG**

This new program will not meet in December. It will resume on January 11. Hope to see you then.

## News and Announcements

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### Give While Gifting!

Shop for everyone on your gift list this holiday at [smile.amazon.com/ch/23-1352566](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-1352566) and Amazon donates 0.5% of eligible purchases to the Unitarian Society of Germantown. Just choose **USG** as your recipient.



### Villages at USG

If you have any questions about Villages at USG, please direct them to [Villages@usguu.org](mailto:Villages@usguu.org). Thanks to all the Villages who offer a friendly welcome and refreshments every Sunday. Upcoming Fellowship Hour Hosts: Dec. 15 - Villages 4 & 6; Dec. 22 - Village 5; Dec. 29 - Village 7



## Deadline for Ordering POINSETTIAS: TODAY!

Our annual poinsettia display in the chancel will be set up on December 13. Contact Elaine Hills ([poinsettia@usguu.org](mailto:poinsettia@usguu.org) or 215-206-6257) to tell her

- how many
- what color (red or white or pink)
- what the brief dedication should be for the orders of service
- when you intend to take your plants.

Order now; pay before Christmas Eve (the first time people can take their poinsettias home). Payment is by cash or check (made out to USG with "Poinsettia" on the memo line); give to Elaine, send it to her at home, or place in her church office mailbox. **The cost of each large plant is \$23.** Elaine will confirm all orders.



## Greening of the Sanctuary

**Friday, December 13, 11:00am - 12:00pm, in the Sanctuary**

Fun, fast, and it adds so much to our holiday services! Come to USG for an hour of creating the swags to decorate the sanctuary with greens. No experience needed! David Tepper will again share his experience in the craft. Please RSVP to Elaine Hills (215-206-6257 or [poinsettia@usguu.org](mailto:poinsettia@usguu.org)). The poinsettias will be delivered later that Friday - if you can help move them in, or want to see how they are assembled, contact Elaine to verify the time.



## Electronic and Texting Donations

It's a great way to make regular donations and many other USG payments. Here's how: Find detailed instructions for using our Breeze payment center at our secure website: [usguu.org/electronic-and-texting-donations/](https://usguu.org/electronic-and-texting-donations/)

## Connect with Others at USG

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### Use Breeze on your Computer or Smartphone

Connect with other USG visitors and members through Breeze, USG's database, which includes a Member Directory. Go to [usg.breezechms.com](https://usg.breezechms.com). **Log in with our church's domain ID - usg -** and then create your own user name and password. Find people's phone numbers, addresses, directions, all in one place. If you have any questions, please contact [communications@usguu.org](mailto:communications@usguu.org).



## Follow @uugermantown on Instagram!

## Join a USG Facebook Group!

To find out more, connect with USG groups via Facebook. You will find the following groups by searching **Facebook.com** for “USG”:

- ASD (Adult Spiritual Development)
- CSD (Child Spiritual Development)
- YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists)
- YA (Young Adult)
- Greater Philly UUs - Social Justice & Other News for the Greater Philly Area
- P.U.S.H. (Philadelphia Unitarian Society of Humanists)
- Exploring Elderhood



## Join Ongoing Events & Groups

Please check the [usguu.org](http://usguu.org) website for more information. Also see the **leaflet** available at the Welcome Table and on the wall by the Name Tag boards for ALL our monthly recurring events - so many we just do not have the room here!

## Our Caring Community

**We are relieved and happy to share the good news that...**

...**Jennifer Bright**, our wonderful childcare worker and CSD teacher for many years, has been cleared of all charges in a 2018 case of wrongful arrest. If you do not know her, please introduce yourself.

### Our Caring Team

**Chair Linda Bernstein, Sarah West, Andi Bernstein and Rev. Kent Matthies**

If you are aware of any joys or concerns that should be part of our caring system, please let us know. Contact any member of the Caring Team. Send emails to [caring@usguu.org](mailto:caring@usguu.org). You also can call a member and leave a voice message. Your call will be returned ASAP.



### USG's Committee On Ministry (COM)

COM is responsible for helping to facilitate communications and resolve conflicts within USG, and for handling issues under USG's Safe Congregation Policy and Covenant of Right Relations.

To find out more, search for “COM” at [usguu.org](http://usguu.org) or contact [com@usguu.org](mailto:com@usguu.org).



### USG's Cancer Support Group

Co-chairs are Susan Zingale-Baird and Sarah West. Contact [cancersupport@usguu.org](mailto:cancersupport@usguu.org).

