

Sunday services

December 2 – 10:30 a.m. Somewhere Over the Rainbow – Karen Harris, M.Div.

Does the human longing for paradise obscure the heaven in our own back yard? Drawing inspiration from such disparate sources as “The Wizard of Oz,” bioregionalism, and the salmon run, we will explore the themes of heaven, home, and the possibility of deep connection between people and place.

Karen was the interim minister at HUUF for almost three years. She received her Master of Divinity from Harvard Divinity School and currently teaches in HSU's Religious Studies Department.

December 9 – 10:30 a.m. Chalica – A Unitarian Universalist holiday

Chalica is a recently developed and evolving Unitarian Universalist holiday. It takes place during the first full week of December, starting on Monday and culminating on Sunday, and it focuses on Unitarian Universalist principles. Each day we light a chalice for that day's UU principle and then try to accomplish something that embodies that principle. We also ponder what these principles really mean. At this fun, uplifting service we will light our final chalice for our seventh principle, “Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.” Simple gifts may be exchanged.

December 16 – 10:30 a.m. Festival of Lights – Rev. Joy Atkinson, readers and tree-trimmers

As a multigenerational community, we will gather to celebrate festivals of light from religious traditions, past and present. Joy will offer a homily, titled “Twelve Other Gifts,” on the true gifts of the season.

December 23 – 10:30 a.m. Jesus the Sage – Rev. Joy Atkinson

On this Sunday before Christmas Eve, the sermon will explore some of the recent scholarship concerning Jesus, whose birth so many will celebrate on Monday evening. Who was this remarkable figure beneath the legends? How much of what is attributed to him did he really say?

December 30 – 10:30 a.m. Right Relationship: What Does Gender Have to Do With It? – Bonita Banducci

Scientific research confirms that men and women really do see things differently. But what do we do with the constructs that make one right and the other wrong or even “inferior?” Seeing these differences as both cultural lenses and gender competencies opens up the potential for honoring the diversity. Once the gender effects are unmasked, we can respond to each other's needs and join our strengths to build new futures beyond what we have ever known.

Bonita teaches Gender and Engineering for Santa Clara University's School of Engineering. Her original research in “What is the Contribution Women Make that Could be the

Strategic Advantage in the Global Marketplace?” launched her specialization in Unmasking the Gender Effect and Gender Competence. Nationally, she consults with corporations, governments, academia and nonprofits. She is a founder of the Global Women's Leadership Network and a gender expert for Mentornet, which is committed to attracting and retaining women into fields of education, science, technology, engineering and math.