



Minister's Message

The ART of Interim Ministry



Congratulations on calling a new minister! Your search committee did a great job after much very hard work. As many of you know, choosing the right minister and getting a "good fit" is challenging,

both personally and communally, because that is the tension is so many of our UU churches- between the needs, wants and idiosyncrasies of the individual and the hearing for beloved community. As you get ready to create your budget for next year; it is even more crucial to keep the beloved community and a new minister and ministry in mind. Since the way churches spend their money shows what they really believe is important, it should also encourage everyone to look at what your budget says about this church and its mission.

Each Sunday in the worship service this community repeats these sacred words:

Words of Affirmation

Children: We believe in Love.

Adults: Love is the doctrine of this church.

Children: We believe in Truth.

Adults: The quest for truth is its sacrament.

Children: We believe in helping others.

Adults: And service is its prayer.

Children: We believe in the sacredness of Life.

Adults: To dwell together in peace, seek knowledge in freedom, serve humanity in fellowship, and cherish the earth and its

creatures this do we covenant each with the other.

This is like the repeating of "The Apostle's Creed" in most Protestant churches; it represents religious meaning and behavior, not a creed, to this church, but can become a meaningless ritual unless it is lived! How does this church truly live out those words, those very sacred ideals? How do you show your love? You're free seeking of knowledge? And especially how are you serving humanity in fellowship and cherishing the earth and its creatures?

I believe in "The Words of Affirmation;" I do think Love is the beginning of religion and especially religious relationships, and I have found much of that here during my last year plus with you. It has been at the "heart" of my message and my ministry. I have developed a deep and profound love of this congregation and have felt that love returned. I hope you share that love with your new minister; I know that he is a very loving person. I will be wrapping up my interim here at the end of June, and will miss you all, though I am comforted by knowing that I will be leaving you in the good hands and good heart of a new minister who will serve you well and, I hope, for a long time! Please make sure you serve him well, too! Keep him for a long time! Love IS the answer.

We mourn the passing of long time member, Dr. Lelia Veaco and keep her husband of 69 years, Bob in our hearts and thoughts.

Shalom,
Art

Sunday Services – 10:30 am

(Unless other wise noted)

May 5 Budgeting Religion; the Theology of Not Having Anything Left Over

The church budget is more than money; it's theology. It reflects how the congregation feels, believes, behaves religiously/psychologically. When we come to die, we want to be "used up," having lived to the fullest, giving all we have to life, love, and relationships. So the church budget wants to end its year "used up" as well, having used all the money for living a full church and social justice life. There are generational, class, and many other psychological differences in how we think about money, especially budgeting it. Let me explain why I have said that a budget surplus is actually sinful!

May 12 "Mother, May I?"

It has never made sense to me that people would think God is a father, rather than a mother. Sure the man was the builder, but only women "create" human beings! Indeed, there's old Spanish saying that God could not be everywhere, so HE created mothers, but the 1st Genesis creation story describes God who creating man and woman at the same time, in what scripture says God describes as "Our own image." It is only in the 2nd creation story where Eve is taken from Adam's rib.

May 19 TBA

May 26. "Peace for Memorial Day"

While remembering those men and women who gave their lives in defense of our country, let us mourn as well those men and women in the countries with whom we were at war also gave THEIR lives in defense of their country. I am for turning Memorial Day into a time which glorifies peace!

Religious Education News

Dear RE and Church Community:

I am excited by the year ahead of us. I have taken on the role of Acting DRE with the goal of shepherding and growing the program until a new DRE can be found by the incoming minister.

I am pleased to announce that Adele O'neil has offered to be our Chair and Tory Sonstroem our board liaison. Please thank them. We will schedule committee meetings soon. Please contact me if you are interested.

Having been a DRE before and having assisted the RE program in the last two years, I have many ideas and will be calling each family to learn more about what you seek from our RE program, then I'll present a vision and set of goals for us to achieve. I hope to get some age-focused programming going by August at the latest (perhaps UU history and values clarification or an exploration of the bible and other religious beliefs from a UU perspective), but until then we have varied mixed-age programming.

The deadline for this newsletter update comes just days after signing my work contract, so trust that despite the briefness of this report, many more announcements will be coming soon, including my office hours (mornings are the best time to reach me, except Tuesdays).

Of course as always we need you to volunteer to be a teacher! Learn UU history with the youth. Share your interests in social justice, meditation, bible history, etc. with our youth.

Best wishes to all of you!

Lisa Jones

Home number 547-1020

(Easiest to reach during school hours every day except Tuesdays)

Social Justice News

Social Justice Collection Sunday, May 19th 2013

This month's social justice collection is in support of Stockton Shelter for the Homeless. Keep an eye out for an announcement in our weekly "A Look Ahead" emails very soon!

Do you know of an organization that would be a good candidate to receive one of our social justice collections? If so, please contact Board President Ben Cervantes or board member Lauri McKindley. We meet periodically to decide who will be the recipients of our social justice collections, and we welcome your ideas!

Thank you to everyone for your generous contributions!

Social Justice Collection

Our April Social Justice Collection raised **\$510.00** in support of **UUSC**. Thank you to everyone for your generous contributions!

Congregational News & Updates

Emerson Coffee House Collective



Seaport Woodwind Quintet

*Saturday, May 11, at 7 p.m.
Open to Everyone*

The Emerson Coffee House is featuring The Seaport Woodwind Quintet. The Seaport Woodwind Quintet brings listeners new and familiar music in a range of styles. Active in Northern California for over twenty years, the members are professional musicians who play in the Stockton Symphony and/or various chamber and wind ensembles. All experienced educators, the members represent several different school districts, colleges, and universities. They have also represented the Symphony in

outreach concerts, and, with Arts Commission Grants, have performed at community and private events throughout the year.

The cover charge is \$10 at the door for adults, \$5 for students. Your musical wanderlust will be satisfied if you bring it along to the Emerson Coffee House.

Refreshing Beverages and Snacks are provided.

Up Coming Performances:

June 8 Frankie and Annette

We will not be hosting the Emerson Coffee House in July or August but will resume in September.

100th Anniversary Photo Directory

We are partnering with Lifetouch Photography to have a 100th year Anniversary Photo Directory. There is no sitting fee and every household will receive a free 8x10 photo and directory. You can bring pets and props. We would like to have all members included in this special directory. This is a great way to celebrate 100 yrs and with a new Minister this will help with face name recognition. There are 3 ways to schedule your appointment time click the link below, look for sign up sheets in Jackson Hall or contact the office and I can schedule the appointment for you.

Picture days and times

Wednesday May 8th 1:30 pm-9:00 pm

Thursday May 9th 1:30 pm- 9:00 pm

Friday May 24th 1:30 pm- 9:00 pm

Saturday May 25th 10:00 am-5:00 pm

Book Group Meeting



The Book Club meets this month on May 22 at 7:00 p.m. in Jackson Hall. *Mistakes Were Made (But Not By Me)* by Carol Tavris & Elliot

Aronson Facilitated by Dwane Milnes.

New members or "drop-ins" are always welcome. If interested in joining us contact Herman Washington at 209-957-8433 or lhwash@comcast.net

Thanks,
Herman

BOOK CLUB READING SELECTIONS for APRIL - AUGUST 2013

JUNE: *Dreams of Joy* by Lisa See. Facilitated by Leslie Washington.

JULY: *The Crucible* (a play) by Arthur Miller. Facilitated by Anne Struck.

AUGUST: *Truth and Beauty* by Ann Patchett. Facilitated by Sigrid Eilers.

New members or "drop-ins" are always welcome. If you are interested in joining us contact Herman Washington at 957-8433 or lhwash@comcast.net

THE LOAVES AND THE FISHES

It's amazing how each Sunday after church there is coffee a' brewing and goodies on the table. Many a generous soul brings something good to share and we owe each and everyone our thanks.

Here is the schedule of those true blue folks who show up each month to make the coffee and bring something to share. If your name is not on this list and still you wish to bring a special treat, the regulars would be happy to have the contribution. Can you please let them know so they won't stay up late on Saturday night baking goodies.

COFFEE MAKERS FOR COFFEE HOUR AFTER CHURCH EACH SUNDAY

First Sunday:

Rebecca Douglass: (209) 951-1256
redo513@sbcglobal.net

Olivia Douglass: (209) 951-1256
wolfshark22@comcast.net

Willemina Atilano: (209) 470-5030

Second Sunday:

Rosemary Moon Atkinson: 478-4380
rosymoonatk@comcast.net

Matt Green: 239-4567
mrmjgreen@yahoo.com

Third Sunday:

Coralita Rathhaus: 477-5770
crathhaus@sbcglobal.net

Pat Davis: 401-4821
patriciaferndavis@yahoo.com

Fourth Sundays:

Lauri McKindley and Liz Newman: 477-3542
lulu3mac@aol.com

Fifth Sundays:

Jim Buik: 982-4524
Al Babylon: 956-6838
alhampshire@earthlink.net

Emilie Hance: (209) 224-4567
em-hance@att.net

Back-up Volunteers:

Floyd Cranmore: (714) 293-2553
fwcranmore@yahoo.com

Lisa Jones: (209) 242-1821
lisawritesagain@gmail.com

Mikayla Meyling (209) 808-8997

Cindy Milford (209) 477-5984

Mary Bullard (209) 477-8745 (Will bring goodies occasionally when asked.)

Kathy Schick: 464-8304
kaschick@berkeley.edu

Men's Group Meetings May 1st & 15th

Meet the first and third Wednesdays 7 PM-~9 PM. We welcome all regardless of gender. Discussion usually centers around politics, family, work, entertainment, sports, life in general and the like. It's just casual, relaxed conversation among friends. Location varies; call Al Babylon at 209-956-6838 if you'd like to try us out.

Food Bank Donations Needed



Please bring your donation to Church any Sunday. The barrel will be next to the piano in the fireside Room.

Collecting Bottles and Cans



The Church is collecting aluminum cans and plastic bottles (water, soda, & juice ONLY – no other plastics) for recycling. Two barrels for your donations are in Jackson Hall. Please drain all liquids before placing in receptacles. Every Monday the cans and bottles will be taken to a recycling center. For more information, contact Judy Andrews at (209) 476-9828.

UU Alliance News

A special thank you to Betsy Keithcart for the very informative and delightful program, "Being a Music Therapist", presented to The Alliance April 10. A box lunch was served and 17 members and guests attended.

Our Annual Luncheon and Program Planning will be held Wednesday, June 12, 11:00 a.m., at the home of Janet Bonner. Members and guests will furnish salads and gather to formulate Alliance plans for the coming church year.

Projects will be discussed as well as possible fund raising ideas.

All money raised by The Alliance is used for church needs or improvements.

Contribution to the Wayside Pulpit renovation fund was a major expense this past year.

Kitchen Cleaning

Each month an Alliance member or church friend assumes the responsibility of checking the kitchen every week for soiled towels and sticky counter tops.

It is everyone's responsibility to see that the kitchen is left clean and tidy after each event. This includes not leaving dirty dishes on the counter tops.

A thorough clean up was done three weeks ago and paid for by The Alliance. However, both the refrigerator and the stove took extra time.

Please be aware that these two pieces of equipment are used over and over and should be left clean and food items marked for future use.

Ephemera Sale

The Alliance has a couple of boxes of Ephemera items left from their last Collectible Sale. If anyone has items of paper goods, old programs, photos, postcards, stamps, pictures, letters from WW 1 or 2, high school memorabilia no longer wanted or pieces of Ephemera that have been collecting dust please let us know. Most collectible are very old pieces of paper goods.

We are thinking of having a small early evening Ephemera sale sometime in the early summer.

Ephemera only - no doo dads or nick knacks.
Joan Briscoe or Janet Bonner.

DAWN house, *Directions for Abused Women in Need*, a program of the Women's Center, appreciates the motel toiletries and other purchases (toothbrushes and paste, deodorant, etc.) church members have been donating for several years.

These items are sometimes packaged in small Zip lock bags and include, soap, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, all helpful to a woman arriving without her own toiletries. Extras are included for DAWN house distribution.

Alliance member, Lois Hulse, has been sorting, bagging and delivering your gifts for the past few years.

The Alliance thanks you with a small reminder. We do not use any item that has been opened or partially used. So please new and unopened items only.

The Alliance

Other UU Events & News Beyond the Congregation

Dear Folks,

There is a lot of news and activity from the UUA. The big news is that we're moving! Check out this article: "UUA to purchase new Boston headquarters" NEWS: Board approves lease-to-purchase agreement for 24 Farnsworth Street in Boston's Seaport District. By Michelle Bates Deakin, 3.15.13
http://www.uuworld.org/news/articles/284714.shtml?utm_source=n

We will be leaving historic 25 Beacon Street! But it should help us grow. More locally, there is another historic event taking place in San Jose next month. The four UU Districts will combine for a Pacific Western Regional Assembly April 26-28, 2013 San Jose, CA

Also important is the 2013 General Assembly, A Meeting of Congregations-
<http://www.uua.org/ga/> General Assembly 2013 June 19-23, Louisville, KY General Assembly (GA) is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Anyone may attend; congregations must certify annually to send voting delegates.

- *Video recap of General Assembly 2012.
- *Registration and Housing Reservations?
- *Volunteer and Scholarship Applications?
- *The 2013 Schedule and Preliminary Program?
- *The Tentative Business Agenda?
- *Why Louisville?

Most General Assembly events will be held in the Kentucky International Convention Center, 221 Fourth Street, Louisville, KY 40202. Google Map.

Contact Us Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) General Assembly & Conference Services professional staff

coordinate logistics such as registration, housing, the exhibit hall, services to our attendees prior to General Assembly, and the GA Program. Contact General Assembly & Conference Services Office Staff.

First Church Stockton is eligible for 3 delegates, and this year is an election year. I also will be attending that as well. If you are a member, and would like to be considered as a delegate (you can vote on all issues which come up in the business sessions of the Association only if you are a delegate.) Experience a UU community of 3-5000 UU's from around the country, experience what a UU Megachurch worship would be like! There are great workshops, programs, lectures, and a huge area of affiliated GA vendors selling everything from books to pagan charms! If you are interested in being a delegate, contact board president, Ben Cervantes soon.

Shalom,
Rev. Art
Hello dear ones,

Good News!

With great pleasure the Pacific Central District Board of Directors announces that Joshua Searle-White has accepted the position of Pacific Central District Executive. Josh will be attending the Pacific Western Regional Assembly later this month, General Assembly in Louisville, KY, and will assume his position in the PCD on July 1, 2013.

You may recognize Josh's name through his popular workshops at General Assembly The UUMA convocation or UUMA chapter retreats. He is also the author Magic Wanda's Travel Emporium: Tales of Love, Hate, and Things in Between, published by Skinner House. Josh is a master storyteller with deep experience helping individuals and Congregations work with their own

narratives to create greater health and vitality.

He has deep roots and many years of experience in Unitarian Universalist congregations, where he has taught and served in a variety of leadership positions; and he has created and delivered well-received presentations around the country, as well as at the district and national levels.

Josh holds a Ph.D. in psychology and is currently Associate Professor of Psychology and Department Chair at Allegheny College in Meadville, Pennsylvania.

He is leaving this tenured position to serve Unitarian Universalism in the Pacific Central District. He tells us he was not looking for another job - only for an opportunity to align his work with his passion for our shared faith. We welcome his talents and enthusiasm.

The Board wishes to thank the Search Committee for their good work and excellent result. They have served Unitarian Universalism in the PCD through an important transition.

Susan Lankford

Acting President

Pacific Central District



Stockton Area Events & News

Free Yoga in Victory Park

Date: Saturday, April 6, 2013 - Saturday, November 2, 2013

Time: 9:00am - 10:15am

Location: Victory Park

1001 North Pershing Avenue
Stockton, CA

Everyone is invited to join our family friendly morning practice!

Bring a large towel or yoga mat, with your positive attitude.

Free Admission Day at The Haggin Museum

The Haggin Museum Free Admission Day
Come enjoy FREE admission to the Haggin every 1st Saturday of the month.

All visitors are admitted free of charge from 12:00-5:00 p.m.

Go to www.hagginmuseum.org or contact museum staff at (209) 940-6300 or info@hagginmuseum.org for more info.

Lodi Street Faire

Date: Sunday, May 5, 2013

Time: 8:00am - 4:00pm

Location: Downtown Lodi
Church Street
Lodi, CA

The Lodi Street Faire is a Lodi District Chamber of Commerce sponsored event held twice annually - the first Sunday in May and the first Sunday in October.

About 700 vendors participate at each event, selling antiques, arts & crafts and commercial items. There are also approximately 20 to 25 food vendors who sell everything from hamburgers, hot dogs, sausages, pizza, etc. Also available is Philippine and Chinese food. You can also get ice cream, soft drinks, and coffee.

There are about 100 volunteers who help direct vendors to where their booths are located. Vendors start setting up around 2:00 a.m. and need to be in place by 7:00 a.m. The Faire goes from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Street Faire takes up a 10-square block area, which can accommodate 25 to 30 thousand potential buyers at each event.

The Faire attracts vendors from the entire state of California. This event has become one of the premier events within the State of California. Because of its popularity, over 50% of the vendors immediately sign up for the next faire.

Contact: info@lodichamber.com
(209) 367-7840

El Concilio's Cinco de Mayo Family Festival

Date: Sunday, May 5, 2013

Time: 10:00am - 6:00pm

Location: Weber Point Center
Downtown Stockton

El Concilio / Council For The Spanish Speaking is pleased to present the 2013 Annual Cinco de Mayo Family Festival to be held from 10am - 6pm at the Weber Point Event Center located in Downtown Stockton on Center Street. There is an entrance fee of \$5 for adults and children 14 years and older. Kids 13 and under are FREE!

Featuring:

Food

Games

Health Screenings

Exhibits

Kid's Activities

Entertainment

Family Fun

Contact: srod@elconcilio.org
(209) 644-2600

The Stockton Chorale presents "Of Thee I Sing"

Date: Friday, May 10, 2013 - Saturday, May 11, 2013

Location: Quail Lakes Baptist Church and St. John's Episcopal Church

A program of American music, new and old, featuring shape note hymns, patriotic works, American poet's works, as well as the premiere performance of a work by the internationally renowned David Conte specially commissioned by the Chorale to celebrate its 60th anniversary!

Two Performances:

- May 10, 2013 @ 7:30 pm (Quail Lakes Baptist Church, Stockton)
- May 11, 2013 @ 3:00 pm (St. John's Episcopal Church, Lodi)

Concert Ticket Prices:

- Adult/Senior tickets - \$20
- Full-time students (any age) - \$5
- Season Tickets - \$80 for five concerts

San Joaquin Delta College Drama presents "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee"

Date: Friday, May 3, 2013 - Sunday, May 12, 2013

Location: Tillie Lewis Theater

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee - Each year, the best and brightest across the country gather for spelling bees, and so it is in Putnam County. Six unlikely heroes, each experiencing their own agony of adolescence, learn that winning isn't everything and losing doesn't necessarily make you a loser. This quirky cast of outsiders, for whom the spelling bee is the one place where they can stand out and fit in at the same time, will charm you with their melodrama, anguish, and joy. The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee is a rollicking good time for everyone both young

and old, with energetic musical numbers, audience participation and of course, big words to spell!

Performances:

- Friday, May 3rd @ 8:00pm
- Saturday, May 4th @ 8:00pm
- Sunday, May 5th @ 2:00pm
- Friday, May 10th @ 8:00pm
- Saturday, May 11th @ 8:00pm
- Sunday, May 12th @ 2:00pm

Tickets: Adults: \$15, Students or Seniors Over 62: \$13

(209) 954-5110

Pancake Breakfast for 3rd Annual 4th of July Parade on the Miracle Mile

Date: Saturday, May 11, 2013

Time: 7:00am - 11:00am

Location: Karl Ross Post 16

2020 Plymouth Rd

Stockton, CA 95204

Come out from 7:00am till 11:00am (or until the food runs out!) for a Pancake Breakfast! All proceeds benefit the 3rd Annual 4th of July Parade on the Miracle Mile held by the Stockton Veteran's Coalition & United Way of San Joaquin. This year's 4th of July Parade on the Miracle Mile will honor all Women Veterans!

\$10 Donation

Tickets available from Teresa Vasquez at

(559) 410-6937 or

stockton4thofjulyparade@gmail.com

Contact:

stockton4thofjulyparade@gmail.com

(559) 410-6937

Regular Church Activities – Come Join Us!

Regular Groups & Meetings	Monthly Meeting Date(s)	Date(s)	Contact for More Information
<p>Book Group <i>All are invited to read & discuss books selected by the group.</i></p>	<p>4th Wednesday 7:00 PM</p>	<p>May 22nd</p>	<p>Herman Washington (209) 957-8433 or bookgroup@stocktonuu.org</p>
<p>Men's Group <i>All are invited who wish to participate in our conversational sessions.</i></p>	<p>1st & 3rd Wednesday 7:00 PM</p>	<p>May 1st & 15th</p>	<p>Al Babylon, 956-6838 or mensgroup@stocktonuu.org</p>
<p>Youth Group <i>Formerly called YRUU, our youth group offers opportunities for social get-togethers and service projects.</i></p>	<p>Special Events as Scheduled</p>	<p>Dates will vary. Please check the church website for more information.</p>	<p>religious_ed@stocktonuu.org</p>

Purpose

(Article III, By-Laws of First Unitarian Universalist Church of Stockton)

We, the members of this congregation, shall foster Unitarian Universalist principles. We encourage each individual to determine his or her own creed and standard of theological belief. Toward those purposes, we are committed to creating a loving religious community through worship, study, service and fellowship while honoring diversity and respecting the inherent worth and dignity of each individual. We shall strive to render enlightened service to the various communities of which we are a part. We respect the interdependent web of all living things.

Interim Minister

Rev. Art Severance.....466-7743
E-Mail.....minister@stocktonuu.org

Director of Religious Education

.....466-7743
E-Mail..... religious_ed@stocktonuu.org

Music Director

Curtis Mannah.....466-7743
E-Mail.....music@stocktonuu.org

Administrator

Nichole Ybarra.....466-7743
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Board of Trustees' President

Ben Cervantes.....373-3957
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How to Contact Us

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Office Hours.....Mon. – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Thurs. 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

First Unitarian Universalist Church
2737 Pacific Avenue
Stockton CA 95204

Return Service Requested

Time Dated Material – Please Deliver Promptly