

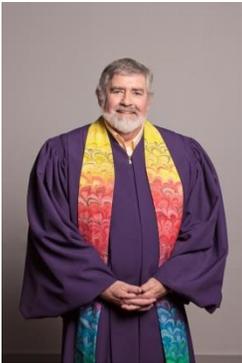


FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF STOCKTON
COMMUNITARIAN

Published Monthly

June 2014

Minister's Musings/Message:



Our Unitarian Universalist General Assembly is the highlight of the year or at least the month of June for many UUs. This year it will be in Providence, RI June 24-29th. It is an opportunity to hear the trends in our movement, see and spend at displays in the exposition hall, to hear some very good speakers/preachers and attend some fine workshops and

worship experiences. For Ministers and for lay repeat attendees it is a chance to re-connect with colleagues/friends across the country. General Assembly (GA) is also the place where decisions about the association and resolutions are debated and voted upon.

As a member congregation of the UU Association, some decisions of GA are binding upon our congregation while others are left to the discretion of our congregation since we practice a Congregational Polity. Congregational ministers and delegates from each congregation are entitled to vote at the business sessions. GA is held in different locations each year, and will be back in Portland, OR next summer. Every UU can benefit from attending GA at least once!

The other big event for June is our Annual Congregational Meeting. We will be meeting to approve a budget, elect officers, and discuss upcoming congregational matters. Thanks to the hard work of Mary Bullard and her team and to the generosity of everyone, the financial situation is looking good. Many Thanks to Mary and to everyone who helped and everyone who pledged for the coming year!

Soon we will begin thinking about the coming church year! If you are traveling this summer, remember to take some pictures of beautiful places to send in and bring back some water to share in our Water Communion service in September!

Have a safe and relaxing summer and remember that First UU will meet every Sunday, though I will be gone for a few!

Peace,
 Rev. Bob

**Sunday Services - 10:30 am
 (Unless otherwise noted)**

June 1 Religious Education Sunday Lisa Jones, DRE, and Rev. Bob Klein

June 8 The Annual Meeting and Congregational Polity Rev. Bob Klein

June 15 Father's Day: Remembering/Appreciating Dads and other Father-Figures! Rev. Bob Klein (Social Justice Sunday)

June 22 Guest

June 29 Guest

Adult Classes led by Rev. Bob:

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Looking at our Shadows: based on Connie Zweig & Steve Wolf's book, *Romancing the Shadow: Illuminating the Dark Side of the Soul*
We will meet Thursdays June 5, 12, and 19th 6-7:30 p.m. unless we finish the discussion sooner.

Other Upcoming Study Possibilities:
Let me know which interest you!

Unitarian Universalist History & Theology (based on David Bumbaugh, Earl Morse Wilbur, and John Buehrens' books on UU History)

Blessing, Spirituality, and Panentheism (Matthew Fox's Creation Spirituality, based on his book *Original Blessing*, and other writings)

Dream Group, looking at our Dreams—using Rev. Jeremy Taylor's method. (Recommended reading: **The Wisdom of Your Dreams** by Jeremy Taylor)
 Contact Rev. Bob for more info if interested.

Please forward to anyone you think might be interested!

Religious Education News

Minister's Office Hours:

Rev. Bob generally keeps walk-in hours on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 10-12 a.m. and 1-3 p.m. Especially during the summer, please call to be sure that he is in and available as occasional meetings, hospital visits, trips, and other appointments may need to be scheduled during these times. Rev. Bob will be gone for General Assembly June 20th-July 6th. Rev. Bob is also available by appointment at other times. Please call his home 209-227-7591 if he is not at the church, or **call his cell 209-684-6345 for appointments or emergencies.** Messages left on his cell will be checked at least daily. Feel free to e-mail uurevbobk@gmail.com

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report to the Church – May 2014

I am happy to report that the Pledge drive has been very successful and we have received enough pledges to support the budget that was presented to the congregation last month. Final budget details will be presented and voted on in the June 8th congregational meeting. My thanks to you all for your generous increases in support of our ministry.

The current fiscal year is approaching the end and the report for the end of 11 months will be included in the Annual Report.

As always, you can view the monthly details of our finances on the board in Jackson Hall.

Respectfully submitted

Dave Hall



Children's Summer Program

We are asking volunteers to share their interests in science, art, and other hobbies with the kids this summer. Contact Lisa with a date or two in mind.

June

This month we'll focus on art, music, and nature activities. July we'll do more science and water play.

June 8 Environmental Art
Extended childcare hours for congregational meeting.

June 15 Make a gift for parents (Father's Day)

June 22 Aboriginal style dot painting.

June 29 (Probably) Music

Teen program starts up in July.

Some possibilities in the works:

- Nerf ball game, lunch & discussion
- Delta Water raft adventure
- DVD, dinner & discussion

Note: Lisa Jones, Director of Religious Education, has changed her office hours to Tuesdays 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Best place to leave messages:

religious_ed@stocktonuu.org

547-1020 (home phone/landline)

During office hours you can reach her directly via her cell phone 242-1821.

Congregational News & Updates

Fireworks Fizzle

The drawing for organizations who had applied to sell safe and sane fireworks was held on May 8th and we were not lucky enough to be one of those drawn. We can apply again next year.

Many thanks to those of you who indicated that you would be willing to assist with sales.

Membership Class

Are you interested in joining our congregation or would you simply like more information about our church and how we differ from traditional protestant churches?

Plan on attending a class following the church service on Sunday, June 1st. Immediately after coffee hour, those interested will enjoy a bit of lunch and informational presentations from 12 noon to 3 P.M. (at the latest). Rev. Bob will help with the history of the denomination and you'll learn more about our church in particular. A great opportunity to ask questions. All are welcome.

To help with planning, please notify Mary Bullard if you would like to be part of this class. We need to know how many to expect. marybee2@gmail.com or 477-8745.

Mary Bullard

SAVE THE DATE ! Mexican Dinner Fundraiser

Don't miss out! A delicious Mexican dinner catered by La Palma Mexican Cuisine (a family-owned Miracle Mile eatery) will be served in Jackson Hall on Thursday, June 19, at 5:30. Come for dinner, camaraderie, and a sweet movie, "Crazy from the Heart", in which a charming Mexican custodian (Ruben Blades) woos and wins a prim school principal (Christine Lahti).

You get all this for the reasonable price of \$12! Children under 10 can have their favorite, chicken strips, for \$6. Tickets will be available after church through June 15.

Dinner menu: chicken or cheese enchiladas, chicken strips for children, pinto beans, rice, salad, tortillas, chips, salsa, and a surprise dessert. There will be drinks and no-host Mexican beer.

So FUN-raise while we FUND-raise, and join your 1st UU amigos (bring your neighbors and relatives, too) for a meal muy deliciosa and a movie muy buena!

Book Group Meeting June 25, 7:00 pm



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

Pledge Drive Rousing Success!

Hooray for us all! You did it!

Thanks to the outpouring of the combined commitment and generosity of this entire congregation, we have met our goal. The great majority of pledges for the coming year have been received and at this writing, we have promises from members and friends amounting to a total of slightly more than \$158,000 for the coming fiscal year, an increase of \$23,400 annually over the 2013-2014 total. This result will allow our church programs to "catch up" a bit, at least continue at present levels, and hopefully, may provide for some modest expansion in some areas. There are yet a few outstanding pledges and this amount could see a slight increase.

Out of curiosity, some percentages were figured since, in our pledge brochure, we had asked for a 20% increase in pledge amounts from all those who could. Some increased their pledge far beyond that amount while some, due to their individual circumstances, chose to maintain their pledge at the same level or, in a few cases, found that they must reduce the amount. Nevertheless the average increase of all pledges now stands at 22%. Of those who chose to actually increase their pledge, the average is a staggering 34%! The actual increase in pledged dollars over last year stands at 17% at present.

What can your Board and Pledge Committee say to you to express our appreciation? We convey a simple and heartfelt **Thank You** to each and every one of you for your support, whether a new member participating in the pledge drive for the first time or a decades-old member who maintained your support at whatever level you comfortably could and often gave a generous increase. Combined, you all stepped up to the plate beyond our hopes.

With sincere gratitude,
Mary Bullard, Pledge Drive Chairperson

Covenant Groups

These groups usually gather in a member's home or at the church once a month for an extended check-in and a topical discussion. Each group of 5-10 persons drafts a covenant of commitment and behavior to be revisited whenever a new member joins including the commitment to keep sacred what is shared and to support members of the group. These are not therapy groups but they often become important opportunities for members of the congregation to get to know each other in deeper ways. If this sounds interesting to you, please let Rev. Bob or the office know and we will soon be scheduling an introductory session possibly with a pot-luck!

Calling on all members (not just parents)

Do you have a special talent, interest, or skill you could share with the children one Sunday this Summer? We need many elders, adults, and parents to volunteer one Sunday to plan easy, fun activities for a small, mixed age group of children. Contact Lisa 547-1020, religious_ed@stocktonuu.org.

In the summer we ask church members who don't normally participate in RE to donate one Sunday working with Lisa to plan a simple activity related to your personal hobbies or interests. Share what you know about nature, photography, birdwatching, science, or a sport. The focus is on fun and community. Contact Lisa Jones, DRE 547-1020 (home phone) with a date of availability in mind.

Do you like to sing?

The choir is accepting new members! If you love to sing, or have always wanted to try out performing, here's your chance. The church choir is open to anyone who would like to sing with us. We rehearse at 9am on Sunday mornings before the service. We usually rehearse and sing 3 Sundays each month. Contact Amelia Roberts, Music Director, at AmeliaRoberts@gmail.com (don't miss the middle initial "i") for more information

Coupon Books

Ever want to see a theater production at the Stockton Civic Theater? Page 89. Take your grandchild to the Haggin Museum? p. 79. Try Flips hamburgers in Lodi? Page 11 on the Lodi side. All of these two-for-one deals are available in our Gift Check Coupon Books. The coupon book is good until Dec. 31, 2014. Get them at the coffee hour after church or ask Herman Washington or Pat Davis to look at one. \$12. brings a nice profit to the church and many good deals for your pocketbook to enjoy. Great gifts, too.

Alliance News

Annual Potluck Salad Luncheon and Program

Planning meeting Wednesday, June 11 at Janet Bonner's home beginning at 11:00 a.m.

Social Justice News

Social Justice Collection recipient for Sunday, June 15, 2014 is PUENTES.



PUENTES' mission is to spread the knowledge and the development of sustainable technology and stimulate a critical cooperative and positive attitude in at-risk communities throughout the Americas.

PUENTES is a human services and development organization based in Stockton California. PUENTES does not give people food; we give people the opportunity to grow food for their families and community. We are working to empower men and women to feed their families healthy food by working in their own community gardens.

Our approach to development is unique because of the special emphasis we place on motivating people to improve their situation and to promote the technologies they have successfully applied in their own homes and communities.

JULY 20, 2014 Stockton Shelter for the Homeless-The Mission of the STOCKTON SHELTER FOR THE HOMELESS is to provide opportunities for the Homeless people to become self-supporting participants in the community by providing for shelter and other basic needs.

AUGUST 17, 2014 PRIDE CENTER- The mission of the San Joaquin Pride Center is to serve the diverse LGBTQQIA community in San Joaquin County and the surrounding areas by creating a safe and welcoming space, by providing resources that enrich body, mind and spirit, and by educating the public in tolerance and respect for all people within the LGBTQQIA community.

Social Justice Collection

Our May Social Justice Collection raised **\$204.22.00 for the woman's Center of San Joaquin County**. Thank you to everyone for your generous contributions! If you have any suggestions for Social Justice Collection Recipient please contact Lauri McKindley or Rev. Bob Klein.

Nominating Committee

Each year a Nominating Committee is responsible under our Church By Laws for nominating individuals to fill positions on the Board of Trustees, the Endowment Committee and on the Nominating Committee for consideration by the Congregation at the Annual Meeting. The By Laws provide also an opportunity for members of the church to also nominate other individuals to fill the positions with a petition and the agreement of the person(s) being nominated. The specific language in the By Laws are:

Section 4: The Nominating Committee shall submit, in the notice of the Annual Meeting, the names of one (1) or more candidates for each Trustee office to be filled by election. Additional nominations may be made by petition of at least five (5) Certified Members submitted no later than the beginning of the Annual Meeting, providing the nominee meets the requirements of Article V, Section 1 and has agreed to serve.

For consideration by the Congregation at the Annual Congregational meeting June 8, the Nominating Committee has recommended the following individuals to fill the various open positions:

Board of Trustees (Three year terms from July 2014 through June 2017)

Elise Forbes
Dee Heszler
Dwane Milnes

Endowment Committee (Three year terms from July 2014 through June 2017)

Dick Abood
Janet Bonner
Dave Hall
Dwane Milnes

Nominating Committee (One year term from July 2014 through June 2015)

Dee Heszler
Doray Johnson
Liz Newman

General Assembly, A Meeting of Congregations

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.

General Assembly 2014 June 25-29, Providence, RI

Most General Assembly events will be held in the Rhode Island Convention Center, 1 Sabin Street, Providence, RI 02903. [Google Map](#).

The theme for General Assembly 2014 is *Love Reaches Out*.

Religious life in America is changing dramatically and rapidly. Fewer people are identifying with specific denominations and most mainline religions are losing members in droves. People now find many outlets and places of engagement for their spiritual lives. Current studies of faith in America show that there is a movement toward a liberal, fluid kind of faith that doesn't fit with traditional denominational identity and structure. We already know that for every adult member of Unitarian Universalist (UU) congregations, there are at least three non-members who also consider themselves to be Unitarian Universalist.

A core purpose of our faith is to help people grow in spirit and in service. We believe that our faith provides a path for each of us to unlock our transformational capacity to serve the world with love. We want to expand our faith not just to grow Unitarian Universalism, but also to better achieve this transformational purpose. Therefore, the General Assembly Planning Committee, the UUA Board of Trustees and the Administration want the General Assembly in 2014 help our association live into a future where our "Love Reaches Out" to share our faith both within and beyond our congregations' walls.

- [Registration](#) (rates increase 5/1)
- [Housing and Travel](#) (rooms added 3/21)
- [Preliminary Programming Information \(PDF\)](#)
- [Tours and Excursions](#) in and around Providence
- [Financial Aid](#) (applications due 3/31)
- [2014 Schedule](#)

\$100 reimbursement offered to [Congregational Presidents](#)

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.

Minister

Rev. Robert Klein466-7743
E-Mail.....minister@stocktonuu.org

Director of Religious Education

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

Music Director

Amelia Roberts.....466-7743
E-Mail.....music@stocktonuu.org

Administrator

Nichole Ybarra.....466-7743
E-Mail.....office@stocktonuu.org

Board of Trustees' President

Dwane Milnes 467-0224
E-Mail president@stocktonuu.org

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