

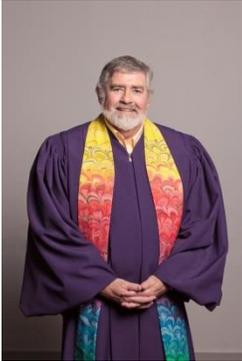


FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF STOCKTON
COMMUNITARIAN

Published Monthly

May 2014

Minister's Musings/Message:



The month of May sometimes comes as a surprise. Where I grew up in the Chicago area it was usually the first really warm month, though it frequently also included some cold rainy days, especially if you were to venture downtown or to Wrigley Field for a Cubs game. The school year and

church year are both winding to a close by the end of May and we could begin to believe that summer was coming! Here in Stockton, we have already had quite a bit of warm weather, with hints of the hot weather to come! We have gotten some rain, but we are still in drought.

Our first church year together is rapidly winding to a close! We have had time to get acquainted, but to many I am still the "new" minister. It has been a busy year, but as always in church work, there remains so much yet to do! If any of you were expecting me to be a savior, you probably now realize that, I too, have "clay feet." I hope that we have worked together enough to know how much I appreciate all the effort you each put forth to make First Unitarian Universalist a vibrant, lively, musical, and well-fed community! I appreciate your response to the sermons and services I have led, and for the lively discussion in the adult classes, and for the deep sharing that has come in the Dream Group sessions! I hope soon to help you revive the Covenant Group program and to think of the other things that are within reach for a congregation no longer as physically able as it once was!

The newly organized Program Council is already helping to better coordinate efforts of differing groups and committees and hopefully will be a place to generate new ideas for programs, worship

experiences, and outreach efforts. The board continues to work hard to oversee the life, facilities, finances, and general efforts and possibilities of the congregation, but the program council will hopefully help to ease their responsibilities somewhat in regard to programmatic ministries.

I wish for you a wonderful Month of May, with beautiful flowers, pleasant weather, the chance to spend quality time with friends and family, and opportunities to get out and enjoy this amazing area and the world in which we live! May all be well with you and yours in the fabulous month of May!

Rev. Bob

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

5/4 Religion on the Mind: Are we hard-wired for Religion? Rev. Bob Klein
(Auction sermon, topic requested by Tory)

5/11 Mother's Day Flower Communion!
Bring a flower! Rev. Bob Klein

5/18 Universalist Saints! Rev. Bob Klein

5/25 Remembering Loved Ones on Memorial Day!
Rev. Bob Klein

Adult Classes led by Rev. Bob:

Adult Classes led by Rev. Bob:

The Battle for God: a History of

Fundamentalism by Karen Armstrong

Final Wrap-Up Session Friday 5/2 10:30 a.m.-noon.

Looking at our Shadows: based on Connie Zweig & Steve Wolf's book,

Romancing the Shadow: Illuminating the Dark Side of the Soul.

Evening group starts Thurs. May 8th 7 -8:30 p.m.

Daytime group starts Friday May 9th 10:30-noon

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!

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!

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 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 do not have much to report this month. The pledge drive is well underway and the results are awaited by the Pledge drive team, the Finance committee, the Board of Trustees and Rev. Bob. The Board and Finance committee will meet on April 29 and I hope to be able to post some data in Jackson Hall by Star Wars Day (May the Fourth be with you). I am sure you will also hear it from the pulpit.

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

Respectfully submitted

Dave Hall



Religious Education News

What's Happening in Religious Education for Youth and Children

May will be a VERY busy month for all age groups. Programming includes:

- Choir for all ages
- Art & Spirituality for the Wonderer Age group
- Art & Treasure Hunting for Creator Age group
- Teen unit on Buddhism and Zen Gardens

All programs in May require regular attendance if you are not new to the church.

Please contact Lisa ASAP if you haven't already signed up, contact info below.

Teens will meet every Sunday except the 18th

5/4 9 A.M. Sharp! Bring a friend/Cookie Baking Day/Buddhism Unit at 11:30, Day ends at 1:30 p.m.

5/11 11:30 to 1 p.m. Buddhism (intergenerational Flower Communion service at 10:30)

5/25 10:30-12:30 (roughly, stay tuned) Teens Prepare Buddhist presentation for RE Sunday

6/1 RE Sunday Intergenerational Service

IMPORTANT: The following information will be updated with any changes on the [website here](#).

Choir Practice-All Sundays except the 18th (for all ages interested)

Please attend at least 3 of the May practices plus 6/1. The most important practices will be:

- After church May 4 until 12
- May 25 during church (and no later than 12)
- Come at 9:30 a.m. on 6/1 to rehearse once before performance at 10:30

Wonderer and Creator Schedules (Age 4-6th grade groups)

5/4 Wonderers: How and why do various religions create a sacred time or place? Make an altar or symbol to show what is sacred to you.

Creators: (we think we have the volunteer leadership for this—check the [website](#) calendar for more details) What is the meaning of the Chalice? Children will make their own clay chalice.

5/11 Semi-Intergenerational Flower Communion/Mother's Day service (bring a flower for each person attending and leave with another one—special annual UU service) Children will leave the middle part of the ceremony to make a Parents' Day Present in the cottage.

5/18 (Most likely we'll do both age group programs--check the [calendar](#) for updates.)

Wonderers: What to do when someone is pushy about their religious beliefs—Drama and Games

Creators: What is a church Treasure Hunt (Children will explore the various parts of the church and build a cardboard church.) This lesson will run a little later, but be finished by 11:45 or 12.

5/25 Check Website Calendar

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



Emerson Coffee House Collective

Fat City Four, a Barbershop quartet, will perform for the monthly Emerson Coffee House at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Stockton at 7:00 p.m., Saturday, May 10. Cover charge, \$10 adults; \$5 students.

Fat City Four sings the National Anthem at Stockton Ports and Stockton Thunder games. They have sung in several a'capella competitions and took first place in the NorCal Novice Quartet Contest in 2012. They will be competing in the Division Contest held at Hutchins Street Square on May 17th and will perform at the Barbershop Harmony Society's International Convention at the MGM Grand, Las Vegas in July.

Besides traditional Barbershop music, Fat City Four also sings Doowop, Gospel and Broadway songs, all of which they promise to share on May 10th. These four men enjoy sharing their music at fairs, private and corporate parties, community events and of course contests. But most of all, they love to sing at senior retirement homes where they see faces light up upon hearing the good old "oldies".

Come sit back, enjoy a cup of coffee and some goodies and revel in some good listening to your old favorites and a few new ones.

FLOWER COMMUNION FOR MOTHER'S DAY 5/11/2014—Bring a Flower!

This year we will be celebrating Flower Communion, a Unitarian tradition initiated by the Rev. Norbert Capek in 1923 in the church in Prague, on Mother's Day, May 11th. Part of the tradition includes everyone bringing a flower and everyone going home with a different flower. Please bring a flower or several from your garden when you come to church on Mother's Day!

Salad Sunday – May 18th

It will be too hot for soup, but plan to stay after the church service on May 18th for a friendly get-together and a tasty array of salads and breads. There's sure to be an interesting variety. Good food and good fun!

Would you like to make a salad – enough for at least eight? Go find those recipes and contact Mary Bullard, marybee2@gmail.com or 477-8745.

Book Group Meeting May 28, 7:00 pm



May selection is: Norwegian By Night by Derek B. Miller. Singrid Eilers will be the facilitator.

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

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.

Robert E. Green Memorial Scholarship Recipient for 2014



Anneka Sonstroem has been awarded the Robert E. Green Memorial Scholarship for 2014. This scholarship was established by the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Stockton on the occasion of Rev. Green's twentieth year as our minister. Reverend Green was highly active in community advocacy and social justice. This \$1000 scholarship is awarded each year to a graduating senior from San Joaquin County based on their record of community service. Ms. Sonstroem, who has been an active participant in our church community for many years, is graduating from Lincoln High School in Stockton.

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.

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.

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.

Alliance News

Mark calendars for the Annual Potluck Salad Luncheon and Program Planning meeting Wednesday, June 11 at Janet Bonner's home beginning at 11:00 a.m.

DAWN House Toiletries

Thank you again for your donations of hand soap, shampoo and toothbrushes from your travels. Hand lotion and other items needed by Women and their children fleeing a violent environment are truly appreciated. Remember - only unopened items please.

Alliance Kitchen Clean Up

Plastic drinking glasses are now located above the coffee cups for easy access.

There are several boxes of plastic forks, spoons and knives. Please check before you purchase anymore. There is a full box of table mats as well as hot drink paper cups and a large assortment of foam cups and napkins.

Stored dessert dishes have also been moved to available access although they should be washed before using. The Corelle soup bowls were moved to an upper cupboard location. Please help to keep the kitchen supplies visible, neat and accessible. Thank you to those who purchased some out of date dishes.

Social Justice News

Social Justice Collection recipient for Sunday, May 18, 2014 is Woman's Center of San Joaquin County.

In July 2012 Family and Youth Services (FAYS) and the Women's Center of San Joaquin County merged to become a new organization, Women's Center–Youth & Family Services. Women's Center–YFS is San Joaquin County's only provider of shelter and services specifically designed to meet the needs of victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and homeless and runaway youth. The agency operates 4 offices and 4 shelters countywide, and has more than 75 years of combined experience serving youth and families in crisis. Family and Youth Services (formerly the Center for Positive Prevention Alternatives, Inc.) has been serving homeless and runaway youth and their families since 1969. The Women's Center of San Joaquin County was founded in 1976 to serve victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Social Justice Collection

Our April Social Justice Collection raised **\$324.00 for the Peace & Justice Network**. 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.

The First UU Church Social Justice/Community Outreach "movement" has been busy, busy...

- On April 6th we participated in the Stockton Earth Day Celebration. We had a great time demonstrating solar cooking, painting faces and spreading the word about our church. Thank you to everyone who participated in our "booth". Here are some photos.
- The Habitat for Humanity crew was hard at work again on April 19th. More volunteers are needed, so if you'd like to join the crew, contact Art Cofod (art@cofod.net).

Please join us for our next meeting on **Tuesday, May 20th at 7:00 p.m.** at the church. We'll be talking about new initiatives and directions related to social justice and community outreach. See you there!

Immigrant Day 2014: One California - May 19th

On Monday, May 19th from 8:00 am - 4:00 pm at the Capitol in Sacramento, hundreds of immigrants and advocates from across California will raise a unified voice in support of state legislative proposals that advance immigration justice. The Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry is partnering with other immigrant justice groups in organizing this a day of advocacy, education and unity. Let's have a large contingent of Stockton UUs there! Contact Jeri Bigbee (931-6871, jeribigbee@gmail.com) for more information.



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

How to Contact Us

Phone (209) 466-7743
Fax (209) 466-6474
E-Mail contact@stocktonuu.org
Web www.stocktonuu.org
Mail/Office 2737 Pacific Avenue
Stockton CA 95204
Office Hours.....Mon. – Friday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.